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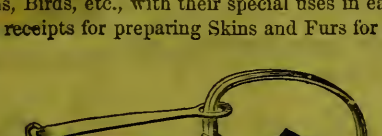

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CONTENTS.

GENERAL REMARKS:

PAGE

1. Style 15
2. Arrangement of Ideas 16
3. Ornamentation 17
4. Long Sentences 17
5. Composition of Letters 17
6. Tautology 17
7. Postscripts 18
8. Quotations 18
9. Underlinings 18
10. Grammatical Correctness 19
11. Spelling 19
12. Contractions 20
13. Figures of Rhetoric 20
14. Capitals 21
15. Punctuation 21
16. Repetition 21
17. Date 21
18. How to begin a Letter 22
19. Proper Modes of Address 22
20. The Superscription 23
21. Concluding Hints 23

INTRODUCTION :

PAGE

Letters of Business 25
Letters of Recommendation 26
Letters between Parents and their Children 26
Letters of Friendly Counsel and Remonstrance 27
Letters Soliciting Advice, Assistance, or Friendly Favors 27
Letters of Courtesy, Friendship and Affection 28
Letters of Condolence and Sympathy 29
Love Letters 29
Notes of Ceremony and Familiar Invitations 30
Hints to Beginners 31

PART I.—BUSINESS LETTERS.

From a Young Man concerning Business, to a Wholesale House, with Order 32
Reply from Wholesale House, with Invoice 33
From a Country Merchant, complaining of the Quality of his Goods 33
Reply to the Foregoing 34
To a Firm complaining of Delay in executing an Order 34
To a Publisher's Firm, proposing to open an Account 35
Proposing to open an Account 35
Preparatory to ordering Goods 36
Answer to the Foregoing 37
Ordering Goods 37
Requesting a Business Letter of Introduction 38
Letter of Introduction in compliance with the above 39
Another Letter of Introduction 39
Another Letter of Introduction 40
Another Letter of Introduction 40
From a Country Merchant to a Wholesale House, requesting an Extension of Credit 41
A Merchant in Pecuniary Difficulties to an Importunate Creditor 42

PAGE
Recommending a Successor on retiring from Business 43
An Urgent Application for Payment 44
Answer to the Foregoing 44
To a Correspondent, requesting the Payment of a Sum of Money 44
Answer to the Foregoing 45
A Merchant urging Payment of an Account 45
Reply to the Foregoing 46
Delaying the Payment of a Debt 46
On the Same Subject, to a Firm 47
Urging Payment 47
In Answer 48
Another Reply, inclosing Promissory Note 48
A Hint for the Payment of a Small Debt 48
Another 49
Another, more pressing 49
In Answer to the Above 49
From a Tenant to a Landlord, excusing Delay in paying his Rent 50
Reply to the Foregoing 50
From a Farmer on the Same Subject 51
To a Physician in the City, asking his Advice 51
To a Schoolmaster 52
From the Same Gentleman, desirous of ascertaining the State of his Son's Improvement 53
Form of an Order to be sent to a Publisher 53

PART II.—APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT, WITH LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION—ANSWERS TO ADVERTISEMENTS.

From a Father to a Tradesman, to take his Son on Trial 54
The Tradesman's Reply 55
Application to a Firm in Behalf of Another Person 55
From a Youth applying for a Junior Clerkship 56
Reply of the Firm 56

PAGE
Answer to the Foregoing..... 57
Application for a Clerkship..... 57
Testimonials accompanying the Above Application..... 57
Answer to an Advertisement for a Book-keeper..... 59
A Second Answer to a Communication from a Firm..... 59
From a Father to a Firm to take his Son as an Apprentice.... 60
Application for the Position of Conductor on a Railroad..... 60
Application for a Situation as Gardener..... 61
Application for a Situation as Coachman..... 61
From a Nursery Governess, in Answer to an Advertisment... 62
Requesting the Character of a Governess..... 63
Favorable Reply to the Foregoing..... 63
To the Governess, from the Lady seeking her Services..... 64
Reply of the Governess..... 64
Unfavorable Reply..... 65
Application to a Clergyman for a Testimonial..... 65
Acknowledging Receipt of Testimonial, with Thanks..... 66
To a Director of the Institution, soliciting his Interest..... 66
Returning Thanks upon Success..... 67
Application for a Situation as Housekeeper..... 67
Application of a Servant for a Testimonial..... 68
The Mistress's Reply..... 69
The Servant, acknowledging Receipt..... 69
Inquiry regarding a Servant's Character..... 69
Reply to the Preceding—Favorable..... 70
Unfavorable..... 70

PART III.—LETTERS BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

Returning Thanks for a Present..... 71
Letter from a Little Girl at School, asking for Permission to return Home..... 72
Answer of the Mother..... 72
From a Young Man who has recently entered College, to his Father..... 73

PAGE
From a Father to his Son at School 74
From a Boy at School, to his Father..... 74
From the Same, to both Parents..... 75
From the Same, announcing the coming Vacation..... 76
From a Young Lady at School, to her Mother..... 76
Answer of the Mother..... 77
Announcing Vacation..... 78
Acknowledging a Present..... 78
From a Gentleman to his Son at School 79
From a Mother in Town, to her Daughter at a Boarding-school in the Country, recommending the Practice of Virtue..... 80
The Young Lady's Answer 81
A Widower to his Daughter at School..... 82
To a Daughter on her Birthday..... 82
From a Gentleman to his Daughter, on her Preference of a Suitor..... 83
From a Gentleman to his Son, on the Marriage of the Latter..... 84
From a Young Lady to her Mother..... 84
The Mother's Answer..... 85
From a Lady absent on a Visit, to her Daughter, whom she has deputed to act as Housekeeper..... 86
Answer of the Daughter..... 87
Letter from a Father, remonstrating with his Son..... 88
The Son s Reply..... 89
From a Young Gentleman, Clerk to a Merchant in the City, to his Father in the Country, soliciting more Pocket-money..... 89
The Father's Answer..... 90
From a Soldier to his Parents, after a Victory 91
A Parent's Answer to a Daughter, absent from Home, learning a Trade..... 91
From a Servant in the City, to her Parents in the Country.... 92
Her Mother's Reply 93
From an Old Mechanic to his Son, recently Married..... 94
From a Father to his Son, who is apprenticed to a Trade..... 95
From a Son in Business in the City, to his Mother..... 96

PART IV.—LETTERS OF FRIENDLY COUNSEL AND REMONSTRANCE.

PAGE
To a Friend who has traduced You..... 97
Answer to the Foregoing..... 98
From a Lady of Superior Understanding, to a Gentleman who felt unnecessarily piqued..... 98
From an aged Lady in the Country, to her Niece in New York, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentleman of Bad Character..... 99
The Young Lady's Answer..... 100
Warning a Young Lady against an Imprudent Match..... 101
Letter from the Philosopher, Benjamin Franklin, to a Young Lady..... 102
From a Young Lady, remonstrating with her Future Husband on his reckless Life..... 103
From a Tutor to a former Pupil, now at College..... 104
The Answer..... 106
Soliciting a Loan from a Friend..... 107

PART V.—LETTERS SOLICITING ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, OR OTHER FRIENDLY FAVORS.

Soliciting a Loan from a Friend..... 107
The Friend's Reply..... 108
Soliciting a Loan from an Intimate Friend..... 108
In Answer to the Above, affirmatively..... 109
In Answer to Above, declining the request on account of Incapability..... 109
Declining to Lend Money..... 110
To a Friend who had offered to become Security for a Loan..... 101
From a Gentleman to his Friend, requesting the Loan of a Book..... 111
Affirmative Answer to the Foregoing..... 111
Answer in the Negative..... 112
A Gentleman on returning a Book he had borrowed..... 112

PAGE

From a Young Lady to a Friend, requesting the Loan of Books during Sickness..... 112
Favorable Reply to the Foregoing,..... 113
Asking the Loan of a Servant..... 113
Requesting a Friend to execute a Commission..... 114
From a Friend in the Country, asking a Favor of a City Friend..... 114
Answer to the Foregoing..... 115
From a Friend in the Country to one in New York, with a Commission..... 115
Application on Behalf of another Person..... 116
From a Gentleman to a Friend, thanking him for Favors..... 116
Requesting a Friend to forward Letters..... 117
Friendly Letter of Introduction..... 117
Another Letter of Introduction..... 118
A Young Man to a Friend soliciting his Interest in procuring a Situation..... 118
From a Reduced Gentleman, soliciting the Aid of an Old Friend..... 118
Favorable Reply to the Above..... 119
Reply in the Negative..... 120
From a Young Man to an Elderly Relative, soliciting his Advice and Assistance..... 120
From a Merchant's Widow to a Lady, a Wealthy Distant Relation, in Behalf of her two Orphans..... 121
The Lady's Answer..... 122
Application for Subscription to a Charity..... 123
The Answer..... 123
A Note, declining..... 124
On Behalf of a Sick Person..... 124
Soliciting a Subscription for the Benefit of a Widow..... 124
Answer to the Foregoing..... 125
For a Subscription to a Coal and Soup Society..... 125
Soliciting Aid on Behalf of a Destitute Family,..... 126
Answer, Affirmatively..... 126
Answer, Negatively..... 127
Soliciting Aid for the Widow of a Soldier..... 127
Answer to the Foregoing..... 128

PART VI.—LETTERS OF COURTSHIP, FRIENDSHIP AND AFFECTION.

PAGE

To a Friend with a Barrel of Apples..... 129
Answer to the Foregoing..... 130
With a Book..... 130
The Reply..... 130
With a Ring..... 131
The Reply..... 131
Another, returning the Present..... 132
With a Miniature..... 132
Reply to the Above..... 133
With a Photographic Album..... 133
Reply to the Above..... 134
Another Answer, from the Father of the Young Lady..... 134
Friendly Congratulations on the New Year..... 135
A Young Lady Congratulating an Aunt on her Birthday..... 136
To a Friend on the Anniversary of his Birthday..... 137
Reply to the Above..... 137
To a Friend, on a Sudden Accession of Fortune..... 138
Reply to the Above..... 138
To a Friend, on being Married..... 139
Reply to the Foregoing..... 139
On the Birth of an Heir..... 139
The Friend's Reply..... 140
Inquiry concerning the Health of a Friend..... 140
Reply to the Foregoing..... 141
A Young Lady, inquiring the Cause of her Friend's Silence.. 141
From a Lady and her Husband, about to visit a Friend in the Country..... 142
Request for a Bridesmaid..... 142
Answer to the Above..... 143
Letter from an Absent Wife, to her Husband..... 143
Reply to the Foregoing..... 144
From an Absent Husband..... 144
The Wife's Reply..... 145
From a Young Lady at School, to her Companion..... 145
From a Young Lady at School, to her former Companion... 146

PAGE
A Lady to her Friend, informing her of her Intended Marriage 147
The Answer, with Congratulation to her Friend on her Intended Marriage 148
From a Brother to his Married Sister, in a Foreign Country.. 149
From One Young Man to Another, in reference to an Attachment 150
Reply to the Above 151

PART VII.—LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE AND SYMPATHY.

On the Death of a Husband 152
Reply to the Foregoing 153
On the Death of a Wife 153
The Husband's Reply 154
On the Death of a Sister 154
Reply to the Foregoing 155
On the Death of a Brother 155
Reply to the Above 155
On the Death of a Child 156
Answer to the Foregoing 156
To a Lady on the Death of her Child 157
The Lady's Reply 158
To a Lady, on the Death of her Husband 158
From a Lady to Another, an Invalid 159
On Failure in Business 160
Reply to the Above 160
On a Sudden Reverse of Fortune 161
Answer to the Above 161

PART VIII.—LOVE LETTERS.

Declaration of Affection 162
Favorable Reply 163

PAGE
Adverse Reply..... 163
To a Widow..... 163
Favorable Answer..... 164
Unfavorable Answer..... 165
A Lover's Good-bye before starting on a Journey..... 165
Reply to the Foregoing..... 166
Brief, but to the Point..... 166
Favorable Reply..... 167
Unfavorable Reply..... 167
From an Absent Lover..... 168
A Kind Answer..... 168
A Colder Response..... 169
To a Lady, after a Short Acquaintance..... 169
Favorable Answer..... 170
Reply to the Foregoing..... 171
To the Same, after longer Acquaintance, proposing Marriage 172
To a Gentleman, after considerable Intimacy, in Answer to a Proposal of Marriage..... 173
To the Father of the Lady..... 173
Favorable Reply..... 174
Unfavorable, on Account of a Pre-engagement..... 175
An Offer of Marriage..... 175
Favorable Reply..... 176
Unfavorable Reply..... 176
Love at First Sight..... 177
Unfavorable Reply..... 177
Favorable Reply..... 178
A Jealous Remonstrance..... 178
Deprecating Reply..... 179
Indignant Reply..... 179
To a Young Lady, to whom One is engaged..... 180
Another, on her Birthday..... 181
On receiving a Birthday Congratulation..... 182
On receiving a Miniature from a Suitor..... 182
Complaining of not receiving a Letter..... 183
A Lady, on sending her Miniature to her Suitor..... 183
From a Young Lady, in Answer to a Proposal for a Private Meeting..... 184

PAGE
Another, more Favorable 185
A Lover's Quarrel 185
From a Young Lady to her Lover, whom she suspects of Infidelity 186
Explaining away an Apparent Slight 187
To a Lover, after a Misunderstanding 188
More Serious 188
A Gentleman desirous of discontinuing his Addresses 188
To a Suitor, in Answer to his Wish to break off all Correspondence 189
To a Lady, complaining of her Coldness 190
Reply, confessing a Change of Feeling 191
From a Suitor, complaining of not receiving a Letter 192
From a Gentleman to a Lady, with a Present 192
A Lady to her Suitor, acknowledging a Present 193

PART IX.—NOTES OF CEREMONY AND FAMILIAR INVITATIONS, WITH NOTES OF ACCEPTANCE AND REGRET.

Invitation to a Dinner-party 194
Reply, accepting the Invitation 194
Declining the Invitation 195
Invitation to an Evening Party 195
Invitation from a Young Lady, to two of her School Companions 195
Reply, accepting the Invitation 195
Inquiry, concerning the Health of an Acquaintance 196
Reply to the Foregoing 196
Invitation from a Familiar Friend 196
An Invitation of similar Character, at greater Length, ... 196
A short Note of similar Character, from a Married Sister to a Brother 197
Declination on Account of a recent Bereavement 198
Declining for the same Reason 198
Declining on grounds of Indisposition 198

PAGE
Declining for another Reason. 199
An Invitation to a Bachelor-party. 200
An Invitation to a Water Party. 200
An Invitation to a Pic-nic Party 200
Another, to a Father of a Family. 201
Another, from one Single Man to another. 201
Requesting the Company of a Lady, to an Assembly. 202
To a Gentleman, accepting an Invitation to an Assembly.... 202
Declining the Invitation. 203
Declining to attend the Annual Banquet of a Society. 203
A Lady to her Friend in the City, inviting her to spend a Month in the Country 204
Answer to the same, Affirmatively. 205
Answer to the same, Negatively. 205

GENERAL REMARKS.

LETTER-WRITING, in its true excellence, can scarcely be regarded as an art. Instruction may no doubt be imparted through the medium of rules; but those applicable to the subject are few, and at the same time of the simplest character. The following observations will, it is hoped, be found of some practical use to young persons, and assist them in avoiding error, and in acquiring a degree of proficiency in epistolary composition.

It should always be borne in mind that letter-writing is but "speaking by the pen." The first endeavor of a writer should therefore be to express himself as easily and naturally as in conversation, though with more method and conciseness.

I.—STYLE.

The style should be determined, in some measure, by the nature of the subject, but in a still greater degree by the relative positions of the writer and the person addressed. On important subjects, the composition is expected to be forcible and impressive; on lighter subjects, easy and vivacious; in condolence, tender and sympathetic; in congratulation, lively and joyous. To superiors it should be respectful; to inferiors, courteous; to friends, familiar; and to relatives, affectionate. An old writer justly remarks: "Much has

been said on the epistolary style, as if any one style could be appropriated to the great variety of subjects which are treated of in letters. Ease, it is true, should distinguish familiar letters, written on the common affairs of life, because the mind is usually at ease while they are composed. But even in these, topics incidentally arise which require elevated expression and an inverted construction. Not to raise the style on these occasions is to write unnaturally; for nature teaches us to express animated emotions of every kind in animated language. The dependent writes unnaturally to a superior in the style of familiarity; the suppliant writes unnaturally if he rejects the figures dictated by distress. Conversation admits of every style but the poetic; and what are letters but written conversation?

II.—ARRANGEMENT OF IDEAS.

The purport of any letter should be well considered before its commencement, not only with a view to the attainment of a thorough clearness of expression, which is of primary importance, but likewise that the principal points to be discussed may be prominently brought forward, while those of a trivial nature are slightly mentioned. It requires, however, not only a certain amount of tact, but some quickness of perception, to avoid that stiffness and formality which are incident to the arrangement of the subject, and which are great defects in letter-writing.

III.—ORNAMENTATION.

A redundancy of ideas and of language is a common fault with those capable of writing with facility. As a rule, therefore, all striving at effect or attempt at ornamentation should be avoided; and as the chief charm of a letter is its originality, writers should not avail themselves either of hackneyed expressions or of ideas borrowed from others. An exhibition of epistolary talent is far less likely to gratify a correspondent than an easy, free, and faithful expression

of the sentiments of the writer; and by thus expressing himself he will also naturally avoid any excess of flattery or exaggerated professions of regard, so peculiarly objectionable in a letter, and at variance with all delicacy of taste. At the same time, a strict adherence to the natural expression of the thoughts will gradually introduce a degree of ease, fluency, and force, which may be carried to a high degree of perfection.

IV.—LONG SENTENCES.

Unpracticed persons will at first find it desirable to make their sentences as short as possible, that they may have them completely under control. Long sentences, even when well constructed, frequently occasion some degree of obscurity, and are less forcible tha ushort ones. Parentheses, though sometimes necessary, likewise tend to obscure the meaning of a writer, besides weakening the effect of sentences; they should therefore be avoided as much as possible.

V.—COMPOSITION OF LETTERS.

As regards the composition of letters, it is generally desirable, except with those upon business matters, to commence with some introductory remarks, not as a mere formality, but for the purpose of conciliating attention to the main subject of communication, which may otherwise strike too abruptly upon the mind of the reader. The introduction should be followed by the development of the topics for discussion, according to the importance attaching to each; and the conclusion should, when occasion requires, be devoted to the confirmation or summing up of what has been previously stated, and to expressions of regard or affection.

VI.—TAUTOLOGY.

Tautology or the repetition of the same words, should be

guarded against, as forming a blemish of a striking character. In this effort, the continual need of words of like meaning will soon render a writer familiar with a variety of synonyms; and the possession of a copious vocabulary will conduce greatly to the general freedom of the composition.

VII.—POSTSCRIPTS.

Postscripts are generally indicative of thoughtlessness and should be avoided, except when necessary for the purpose of mentioning some circumstance that has occurred after a letter has been written. To convey any assurances of regard or affection by means of a postscript is a great impropriety, as appearing to imply that the sentiments are so slightly impressed upon the mind of the writer as to be almost forgotten. There are special circumstances, however, which may render an expression of feeling in a postscript even more impressive than in the body of the letter; but such cases are exceptional, and must be left to the judgment of the practiced writer.

VIII.—QUOTATIONS.

Quotations should not be introduced too frequently, for, though a short and appropriate one, occasionally given, is both effective and elegant, yet to give them prominence in a letter appears pedantic and affected. The common use of French or proverbial phrases also offends against good taste.

IX.—UNDERLININGS.

Underlinings and interlineations are objectionable, and greatly deface a letter. A well constructed sentence will seldom require the emphasis to be marked by underlining any of the words, and a frequent repetition of the practice is not complimentary to the understanding of a correspondent. Any occasion for interlineations may usually be superseded by the exercise of care in writing, and by a little forethought.

X.—GRAMMATICAL CORRECTNESS.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that correctness in grammar and spelling is of the highest importance, and that no elegance of diction compensates for imperfection in these respects, but rather serves to render more glaring errors so essentially indicative of a defective education. When the rules of grammar are understood, the constant attention to apply them will soon render them familiar, and at the same time tend to promote readiness of expression. Abbreviations in spelling, even though warranted by general practice, have a certain appearance of laxity, and detract much from a good style.

XI.—SPELLING.

The following rules will be found of great assistance in writing, because they relate to a class of words about the spelling of which doubt and hesitation are frequently felt. The authorities for spelling generally followed in the United States are Webster and Worcester, who differ in the orthography of a few words; in this work we shall follow Webster. The writer should always have a dictionary for reference, as the importance of correct spelling and phraseology cannot be overestimated.

All words of one syllable, ending in *l*, with a single vowel before it, have *ll* at the close, as *mill*, *sell*.

All words of one syllable ending in *l*, with a double vowel before it, have only one *l* at the close, as *mail*, *sail*.

The words *foretell*, *distill*, *instill* and *fulfill* retain the *ll* of their primitives. Derivatives of *dull*, *skill*, *will* and *full* also retain *ll* when the accent falls upon these words, as *dullness*, *skillful*, *willful*, *fullness*.

Words of more than one syllable, ending in *l*, have only one *l* at the close, as *delightful*, *faithful*; unless the accent falls on the last syllable, as in *befall*, etc.

Words ending in *l*, double that letter in the termination *ly*.

Participles in *ing*, from verbs ending in *e*, lose the

final *e*, as *have*, *having*, *make*, *making*, etc.; but verbs ending in *ee* retain both, as *see*, *seeing*. The word *dye*, to color, however, must retain the *e* before *ing*.

All adverbs in *ly* and nouns in *ment* retain the *e* final of the primitives, as *brave*, *bravely*; *refine*, *refinement*; except words ending in *dge*, as *acknowledge*, *acknowledgment*.

Words ending in *e* drop that letter before the termination *able*, unless ending in *ce* or *ge*, when it is retained, as in *move*, *movable*, *change*, *changeable*, etc.

Words of one syllable ending in a consonant with a single vowel, before it, double that consonant in derivatives, as *ship*, *shipping*, etc. But if ending in a consonant with a double vowel before it they do not double the consonant in derivatives, as *troop*, *trooper*, etc.

Words of more than one syllable, ending in a consonant preceded by a single vowel, and accented on the last syllable, double that consonant in derivatives, as *commit*, *committed*. But except *chagrin*, *chagrined*.

Nouns ending in *y*, preceded by a vowel, form their plural by adding *s*, as *money*, *moneys*; but if *y* is preceded by a consonant it is changed to *ies* in the plural, as *bounty*, *bounties*.

Compound words whose primitives end in *y* change *y* into *i*, as *beauty*, *beautiful*, etc.

XII.—CONTRACTIONS.

Be careful and do not use the character &, except in the title of firms; as, Brown & Cox. As a general thing contractions are to be avoided. The economy of time and space secured by their use, hardly compensates for the mutilated appearance of the words and the liability to error involved. *Don't*, *can't*, *isn't*, and other contractions of the same class, are allowable in familiar letters and where familiar conversation is quoted, but not in any graver style.

XIII.—FIGURES OF ARITHMETIC.

Numbers, except dates and sums of money, should be

spelt in full, unless exceeding three words in length. Never write, "I saw 5 birds," "we have 8 cats."

XIV.—CAPITALS

Capitals should be cautiously used in letter-writing. We should certainly not confine the writer of a letter to the rigid rule observed in printed literature, because an important word may sometimes be graced with a capital which, in a printed form, would begin with a small letter. But an indiscriminate or even frequent use of capitals, is a proof of the ignorance of the writer. The name of a person or place should always be commenced with a capital, and every fresh paragraph should commence with a capital; beyond this, there is little need for their use—strictly speaking none.

XV.—PUNCTUATION.

Proper punctuation is essential to a correct and regular mode of expression. The best general rule to follow, is to place the points where a pause would occur in speaking. Dashes should only be used to mark a sudden change in sentiment or in place of parentheses. Correct punctuation not only gives elegance to a composition, but it makes its meaning clear, enforces attention to those words or passages which most require it, and to a great extent prevents a misunderstanding, or willful misconstruction of the writer's meaning.

XVI.—REPETITION.

Avoid repetitions; they always offend the judicious ear, and are seldom proper, except when they enforce any particular meaning, or explain it more fully.

XVII.—DATE.

The date is a matter of great importance, particularly in business letters, therefore, you cannot be too careful to

state it in full and correctly. Unless you write from a large city, like New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Boston, or Chicago, you should always mention the State, and generally the county, as there are many post offices of the same name in the United States. If you write from a city, mention the name and number of the street, or the name of the hotel. With English writers, it is customary to put the day before the month, in dating a letter; as 18th September instead of September 18th. We deem the former more correct, but custom favors the latter in this country.

XVIII.—HOW TO BEGIN A LETTER.

A letter should be begun about two inches below the top of the paper; and the left hand margin may be about an inch broad. The writer's name should be signed at a little distance below the conclusion.

XIX.—PROPER MODES OF ADDRESS.

The styles of address are varied to suit the occasion, and the terms of compliment at the close of a letter are always considered as mere courtesy or form; they should not, therefore, on any occasion be avoided. To a person with whom a writer is not well acquainted, he should say, "Sir," or "Madam," concluding with "Your obedient Servant;" to those with whom he is tolerably well acquainted, "Dear Sir" or "Dear Madam," with "Yours faithfully;" and to those with whom he is on more familiar terms, "My dear Sir," or, "My dear Madam," with "Yours truly," "Yours very truly," "Yours sincerely," or "Yours very sincerely."

At the same time, the use of "Dear Sir," even toward a stranger, is considered a graceful manner of addressing an inferior; but, in responding to this, it would be preferable to avoid too much familiarity *at first*. A golden rule in such matters is, that nothing is lost by too much modesty,

while nothing gives so much offence as officious familiarity.

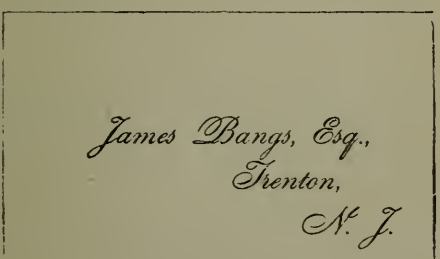
"Reverend and dear Sir," is a frequent address from one clergyman to another, with whom he is supposed to have little acquaintance, beyond that of being in the same profession. "Dear Sir" is afterward adopted, when one or two letters have passed between the parties.

"Honored Sir," though somewhat antiquated, is still frequently used, either in addressing a person very advanced in years, a parent, a person to whom we have been under great obligations, or in an appeal from a poor person to a rich and powerful one.

Terms of compliment at the close of a letter, such as "I have the honor to be your most obedient servant," are always considered as mere forms, which signify nothing. They should not, therefore, be avoided either from pride, or dislike to the party addressed.

XX.—THE SUPERSCRIPTION.

It is fashionable to write the superscription as near the right hand under angle or corner of the letter as convenient. The name of the place must always be written in a line by itself, and in a large, bold character, thus :



XXI.—CONCLUDING HINTS.

Never send a *note* to a person who is your superior, unless

it be upon a very slight and indifferent matter. In asking a favor of an intimate friend, address him in the first person.

Do not take bad writing for freedom of style. Whatever pleasure your friends may derive from reading your letters, you have no right to suppose that they have time for the study of *hieroglyphics*.

And finally, remember that whatever you write is written evidence either of your good sense or your folly, your industry or carelessness, your self-control or impatience. What you have once put into the letter-box may cost you lasting regret, or be equally important to your whole future welfare. And, for such grave reasons, *think before you write, and think while you are writing.*

INTRODUCTION.

In the following series of letters it has been the object of the compiler to present, in modernized style and phraseology, examples of letters on such practical subjects as will guide the inexperienced correspondent in communicating his thoughts on matters of daily occurrence in life. It is to be premised, however, that as exigencies may often occur, when the specimens here given may not suit the circumstances of the writer,—for, indeed, thousands of letters might be published without any one being perfectly adapted to his particular case,—he must regard the letters in this work not so much as copies to be verbally transcribed, as aids for acquiring facility of composition, a correct diction, and an easy and graceful style. The first part of the work is appropriated to

LETTERS OF BUSINESS.

The characteristics of the commercial style are conciseness and perspicuity; with the exception of a few terms of compliment, scarcely a superfluous word should be admitted. It is, however, by no means necessary to sacrifice correctness of style or language; a careful simplicity, with the clearness of expression necessary to convey the thoughts which are desired to be imparted, combined with the rejection of all words not absolutely indispensable, while giving rise to a forcible style, form in themselves some of the chief essentials of true elegance.

It is desirable for those unpracticed in correspondence, before inditing a letter of any length, to note down the several heads of the matter forming the subject of communication, so that the various points may be brought forward in proper consecutive order. If many subjects are to be alluded to, they should be kept perfectly distinct, as the proper division of a letter into paragraphs is of the utmost importance; a confusion of sentences not only looks extremely ill but is very likely to lead to misapprehension of the writer's meaning, and to result in delay and injury, or, at all events, to necessitate further correspondence.

In replying to a letter, each point of it should be taken as it arises, and be discussed in a separate paragraph; and every paragraph should be so clear and unambiguous that its purport may in no way be doubted. All business letters should be answered the same day they are received. In all letters of business it is customary to write the name and address on the first page; as otherwise, if the superscription were lost, it would not appear to whom the letter had been written. For letters of business do not employ gilt-edged paper. To do so is accounted the extreme of vulgarity: therefore always use plain paper on such occasions. Applications for employment, with

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Our examples under this head will be useful, as affording a specimen of an appropriate style to be adopted in answering advertisements, or in applying for situations. On such occasions, while the proper deference due to an employer should be exhibited, it is desirable to preserve that tone of self-respect, which the employee should bear in mind has a better effect than any subservient expressions.

LETTERS BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

Letters expressing the feelings of children toward their parents, and the anxious affection of parents for their chil-

dren, afford themes of the most interesting character, and examples of the most perfect confidence. In style, they have the widest range, "from grave to gay, from lively to severe."

Children away from home, in the excitement of new scenes and fresh acquaintances, may for a time forget and neglect their parents; but moments must recur reminding them of their affectionate solicitude, and in trouble and affliction making them yearn for a sympathy they may then only in its absence thoroughly appreciate, and it is at such times that a letter relieves the heart of the writer and moves that of the parent. Children should, however, accustom themselves to write regularly to their parents, and they should express themselves in the same easy, cheerful way that they would do in speaking at home. The only rule we think it necessary to lay down, is the propriety of preserving a due regard to the relationship in which the writers are placed to each other. A father, when writing to his son, should preserve his superiority by a gentle degree of authority, and a son should never lose sight of the manner in which he can best express his sense of filial duty.

LETTERS OF FRIENDLY COUNSEL AND REMONSTRANCE.

Perhaps no class of letters demands more delicate treatment than such as one friend sends to another with words of counsel or remonstrance, either in common emergencies, or on subjects of general importance. We give a variety of examples; one is from the correspondence of Franklin, and is worthy of study as a model of the instructive class, when the writer is the acknowledged superior of his correspondent in knowledge or experience.

LETTERS SOLICITING ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, OR FRIENDLY FAVORS.

Letters of this class, though they do not relate to transactions which bear a commercial profit, are generally con-

nected with business, and require prompt attention. Introductions, for example, are often of the highest value; and, as such favors can always be reciprocated, they are seldom refused or neglected by men acquainted with the usages of society. Such letters may either be written by persons having only a business acquaintance, or may pass between mutual friends.

LETTERS OF COURTESY, FRIENDSHIP, AND AFFECTION.

An old writer says, "we all delight to talk of ourselves; and it is only in letters, in writing to a friend, that we can enjoy that conversation, not only without reproach or interruption, but with the highest propriety and mutual satisfaction." In such letters, above all things, a natural and lucid expression of the sentiments of the writer is necessary. Friends expect our thoughts and feelings, not a letter filled with unmeaning verbosity; and though, where excellence is aimed at, considerable attention must be paid to the disposition of the words and sentences, it must not be at the sacrifice of the energy resulting from a free expression of the sentiments. Let the thoughts first be mastered, and the words be suggested by the sentiments, without the slightest affectation of manner. The ease of diction so essential may, in a measure, be acquired by familiarity with the best English authors, and an approach thus made to that perfection which may be said to be attained only by the happy union of ease and freshness with the dignity of true friendship.

It is a common saying with young friends, as an excuse for remissness in their correspondence, that they have nothing to write about; but surely between friends there must be a similarity of taste on some subjects, and a discussion of their sentiments and opinions on any one of them, in a course of correspondence, would be acceptable and also valuable, as tending to their mutual improvement.

But this division of our subject comprises, also, the

letters passing between relatives and others united by ties of affection—excepting only the correspondence of lovers, and of parents with their children, which form distinct chapters. In such letters the heart speaks, and the imagination is most eloquent. Letters of courtesy should be written on the best paper. For those to gentlemen the paper should be neither figured nor tinted.

LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE AND SYMPATHY.

Letters of this class are among the more important of those which friendship and affection dictate. Their composition should be more studied than ordinary letters of friendship. The most important rule is to avoid mere conventionalities. In the composition of such, there must be no high-flown words or expressions, no straining after effect. If heart speaks not to heart, in the simplest, most soothing language of nature, words will, to the sufferer, prove cold and unimpressive—worse than useless. Be it ever borne in mind, that, to the afflicted, to the mourner in spirit, "there is only one true source of consolation—that we shall meet those we love in another and a better world, where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest.

Courtesy requires that letters of condolence to a friend on the death of a relative should be written on black-edged paper, and sealed with black wax, even should you have been unacquainted with the deceased.

LOVE LETTERS.

The letters beyond all comparison the most attractive and interesting, are those written in the intimate confidence excited by a tender passion. The language of the heart is universal; in all countries, and with all people where there is sensibility, it is understood. It is the language of nature, charming us with its simplicity, and, by its true expression of our feelings, possessing the power of commanding our sympathy.

There are few suggestions that can be offered as to the composition of love letters. They are frequently based upon the more general form of letters of friendship, the affections of the writers giving a tone to the whole, and being displayed by direct allusions as occasions present themselves. Any extravagant flattery should be avoided, both as tending to disgust those to whom it is addressed, as well as to degrade the writers and to create suspicion as to their sincerity. The sentiments should spring from the tenderness of the heart, and, when faithfully and delicately expressed, will never be read without exciting sympathy or emotion in all hearts not absolutely deadened by insensibility.

NOTES OF CEREMONY AND FAMILIAR INVITATION.

The form of the note is most frequently adopted by ladies, who in this way generally issue invitations to parties. It is, however, on many general occasions, extremely useful, as in returning thanks for any courtesy shown, or when any misunderstanding has arisen between friends, in which case it tends to guard against personalities. It is a form useful, also, as being intermediate between the distant and familiar styles, though it is not usually employed when the communication is of any length.

Notes must be written in the third person throughout; any departure from this rule, either in allusion to the writer or to his correspondents, being a fault of the most glaring kind. It is necessary also to avoid the too frequent use of the personal pronouns, which may be effected by occasionally repeating the names of writer and correspondent, when the length of the note requires this expedient. The date and the address of the writer should always be at the foot of the note.

The established forms for notes of invitation to dinner, to evening parties, etc., are well known, and should be adhered to.

A note of invitation from an intimate friend may be ap-

propriately written in whatever style the degree of mutual understanding between the parties may justify. The chief reason for introducing this class of letters is to point out that they ought always to be *definite*, however brief and however freely written. The best guide in these cases is to consider for a moment the time and circumstances under which the letter will be received. How often has unnecessary trouble and doubt been caused by a note without date, or even the day of the week, inviting the recipient to come and dine with the family of the writer—*to-morrow!* Another infallible recipe for obscurity in this class of notes is to write on a Tuesday afternoon, for example, and invite your friend to come *next Wednesday*.

HINTS TO BEGINNERS.

When you write a letter, give it your greatest care, that it may be as perfect in all its parts as you can make it. Let the subject be sense, expressed in the most plain, intelligible, and elegant manner of which you are capable. If, it is a familiar epistle, you should be playful and jocular. Guard carefully that your wit be not sharp, so as to give pain to any person; and before you write a sentence, examine it, even the words of which it is composed, that there be nothing vulgar or inelegant in them. Remember that your letter is the picture of your mind, and those whose minds are a compound of folly, nonsense, and impertinence, are to blame to exhibit them to the contempt of the world, or the pity of their friends. To write a letter with negligence, without proper stops, with crooked lines, and great flourishing dashes, is inelegant. It argues either great ignorance of what is proper, or great impudence toward the person to whom it is addressed, and is consequently disrespectful. It makes no amends to add an apology for having scrawled a sheet of paper, of bad pens, for you should provide better ones; or want of time, for nothing is more important to you, or to which your time can more properly be devoted.

PART I.—BUSINESS LETTERS.

From a young Man commencing Business, to a Wholesale House, with Order.

Toledo, June 4th, 18.....

Messrs. Jones & Stephen, New York:

Gentlemen: Having commenced business here on my own account with every prospect of success, I shall be glad to open an account with your house, doubting not it will be to our mutual advantage. With this view I note below an order, which I shall thank you to execute with the least possible delay, and on your best terms as to goods and prices. I beg to refer you to my late employer, James Shaw, of Cincinnati, who will satisfy you as to my integrity and trustworthiness; but as this is a first transaction, on your forwarding me an invoice of the goods, deducting discount for cash, I shall remit a sight draft on a bank in your city for the amount, per return mail. Requesting your usual prompt attention, I am,

Gentlemen. Yours respectfully,

Alfred Kingsland.

Reply from Wholesale House with Invoice.

NEW YORK, June 7th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Agreeably to your esteemed order of 4th inst., we have now the pleasure to inclose invoice of goods amounting to $——, subject to 5 per cent. discount for prompt cash.

We may mention that, from the opinion entertained of you by Mr Shaw, we have no hesitation in opening the account, and at once placing you on our best terms. The parcels have been dispatched this day per Adams's Express, and we trust they will arrive safely and have approval. We believe the goods will bear a favorable comparison with those of any house in the trade, and desire that you should satisfy yourself as to value and qualities before remitting settlement.

We are dear sir, yours respectfully,

JONES & STEPHEN.

To Mr. ALFRED KINGSLAND, Toledo, Ohio.

From a Country Merchant, Complaining of Quality of his Goods.

KALAMAZOO, MICH, July 14th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Since I entered into business transactions with you it has been my invariable course to act with integrity and honor, expecting the same conduct in return. Until lately, indeed, I had no cause to complain, but the goods I had from you last week, as well as the parcel just delivered, are so inferior in quality, that I hesitate to offer them to any of my customers. As I can have much better value elsewhere, and I do not sell *job* goods on any account, I am reluctantly obliged to advise you that unless you can send me others in their stead, I must withdraw my correspondence altogether. Meantime, both parcels at

laid aside waiting your orders. An immediate answer will oblige,

Yours respectfully,

CHARLES MARTIN.

TO MR. ALBERT MAKEGOOD, New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

NEW YORK, July 17th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I duly received yours of 14th instant, and am extremely sorry the goods sent you were inferior. By a mistake on the part of my warehouseman, the parcels sent you were selected from a lot of goods intended to be sold at a considerable sacrifice in price, and which I know well would not suit your sales. In order to make amends I have re-executed your orders for both parcels, and I have every confidence you will find the goods now sent of first quality, and as cheap as any in the market. They are dispatched this day per Merchants' Dispatch Line, freight paid, and I shall feel obliged by your returning the inferior goods at your convenience, debiting my account with any charges for porterage, etc.

Trusting you will overlook this mistake, which I exceedingly regret, and that I shall be favored with a continuance of your correspondence,

I remain yours truly,

ALBERT MAKEGOOD.

TO MR. CHARLES MARTIN, Kalamazoo, Mich.

To a Firm complaining of Delay in executing an Order.

PITTSBURGH, Oct 18th, 18—.

GENT,—Three weeks ago I forwarded to you an order, stating that I was in immediate want of the articles therein named, but as yet I am without any advice regarding them. As this delay has seriously inconvenienced my bus-

iness, causing me to lose sales, and disappoint good customers, I shall thank you to inform me per return of mail when I may expect the goods. If they are not here by the 22d inst., I shall be compelled to purchase elsewhere, and you will please countermand my order.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN FEEKS.

TO MESSRS. ROSS & BANCKER, Broad St., New York.

To a Publisher's Firm, proposing to open an Account.

NEW ORLEANS, May 3d, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—As our business is rapidly on the increase, we are desirous of opening an account with your house, and shall feel obliged by your transmitting us a trade list of your publications, as well as some of your general catalogues. Our usual terms of settlement are as follows (*here state them*). Should they be agreeable to your house, the favor of an early attention to our request will oblige,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

MANNING & Co

TO MESSRS. HARPER & BROS., New York.

Proposing to open an Account.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 30th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—Having succeeded to the business formerly carried on by Messrs. Jay, we are desirous of entering into a negotiation with your house for the supply of hardware. We may mention that business is happily very brisk at present, and that, having materially increased our connection in San Francisco, Portland, etc., we flatter ourselves that we could be very instrumental to increasing the sale of this description of goods. We are encouraged to make this appli-

cation from knowing that you were formerly in the practice of transacting business with Messrs. Jay in this way.

We have, in the meantime, forwarded through Messrs. Fox a pretty extensive order for your line, by which you will perceive the nature of the articles most in demand. We would suggest, in the event of your acceding to our application, that a supply of these goods be sent to us, say every six weeks or two months, to the extent of about $700. We mention this sum at present, but hope, when the trial has been made, and we find ourselves in a position regularly to supply our country agents, to have it extended to twice or three times that amount. Mr. Mason, who returns to New York in the course of a month or two, will give you every satisfaction as to our name and position, but in the meantime we beg to refer you to Messrs. Wm. Aymar & Co., and Messrs. Harris & Sons, both of which houses are well acquainted with the state of our affairs.

We trust the order we have now sent will be executed with all speed, and on presentation of the invoice to Messrs. Fox, they will give you a check for the amount, as well as advice by what vessel to ship the goods.

We are, gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HARDING & WATTS.

TO MESSRS. MASON & WATTS, Dey St., New York.

Preparatory to ordering Goods.

PHILADELPHIA, June 2d, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—Our mutual friend, Mr. Ray, having favored me with your address, and having assured me that you would gladly undertake the execution of any orders I might transmit, I annex a list of articles, for which pray favor me with your present prices. I also wish to know which of the several descriptions of goods you have in stock, as well as the length of time necessary to complete the execu-

tion of a small order for such as you may have to procure. I understand from Mr. Crane that your usual terms of business are a three months' note, or an allowance of two and a half per cent. discount for cash. Awaiting your reply,

I am, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WM. THORNTON.

TO MESSRS. ROBINSON & LEEK, New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

NEW YORK, June 3d, 18—.

SIR,—We have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and we now return your list, with our present prices affixed. We have therein distinguished such of the goods as we have in stock, and which, on receipt of your instructions, can be forwarded immediately. We have no doubt that any of the other articles could be procured within three weeks, and trust that our quotations are such as to admit of your favoring us with an order, which, we can assure you, shall have our prompt and best attention.

Our terms are, a three months' note or an allowance of two and a half per cent. discount for cash.

Tendering our services at all times, in any branch of the trade with which we are connected,

We are, sir,

Yours faithfully,

ROBINSON & LEEK.

TO WILLIAM THORNTON, ESQ., Philadelphia, Pa.

Ordering Goods.

PHILADELPHIA, June 4th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—I am in receipt of your favor of yesterday's

date, returning my list with your prices attached, and communicating your customary terms of business. I have selected such articles as fall within my limits, and now beg to inclose a detailed specification of those to be forwarded to me at once, and another of the goods which I wish you to procure conditionally upon their delivery here within three weeks. For some of the latter I am much pressed, and shall therefore be glad if you will forward them to me as they come in, instead of waiting for the completion of the entire order. If there have been any recent improvements upon my specifications, I shall be glad if you will communicate with me on the subject, and suspend the issue of the order pending my reply.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
WM. THORNTON.

MESSRS. ROBINSON & LEEK, New York.

Requesting a Business Letter of Introduction.

HARTFORD, Jan. 16th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Some time ago you were kind enough to express yourself desirous of serving me in the way of an introduction.

Would it be asking too great a favor if I were to solicit from you a letter to two or three of the most respectable builders in New York, whom I should like to wait upon?

I should esteem it a very great favor if you would oblige me, as I am convinced the position you hold among them would considerably enhance my chance of obtaining orders.

Apologizing for troubling you,
I remain, sir,
Yours most obediently and obliged,
JAMES ROBERTSON.

TO JOHN TRIMBLE, ESQ., No. — West Thirty-fourth St., New York.

Letter of Introduction in Compliance with the Above.

WEST 34th ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 18th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow this to introduce to you Mr. James Robertson, who is prepared to supply certain descriptions of building materials upon somewhat more advantageous terms than are generally current in the trade?

From my knowledge of his integrity and business qualifications, I feel sure that you may rely with confidence upon the satisfactory execution of any orders with which you may be pleased to intrust him.

I am, dear sir,

Yours truly,

JOHN TRIMBLE.

TO JOHN GALLIER, ESQ., No. — Lexington Avenue, New York.

Another Letter of Introduction.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22d, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—The present will be handed you by Mr. James Taylor, of Boston, partner in the highly respectable house of Treadwell, Taylor & Co. of that city, with whom I have large transactions. The zeal, the promptness, and the probity which I have experienced in the manner of doing business of this house, are guaranties to me that they will continue to justify the respect of houses who might confide to them the care of their interests; and it is with this conviction that I take the liberty of recommending their concern to you, and with which I should be happy to put you in the way of business. It is with the same pleasure, also, that I recommend Mr. Taylor, who merits personally all your esteem, assuring you that I shall be greatly obliged for all kindness that you may render him, and for the attentions you may pay him. I beg that on a

like, or on any other occasion, you will dispose freely of me; and am very respectfully yours,

THOMAS COPE.

TO MESSRS. MOSES ODELL & Co., Broad St., New York.

Another Letter of Introduction.*

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 11th, 18—.

SIR,—I take the liberty of recommending to you my friend, Mr. Granger, of this city, bearer of the present. He intends staying only a week in New York; but should he have need of any information, I would be very much obliged to you to furnish it to him, and will be equally thankful for any other services that you may have occasion to render him. Relying, in this respect, upon your usual kindness,

I am, dear sir,
Yours sincerely,

HENRY GLADSON.

TO MR. CHARLES HOWLAND, Maiden Lane, New York.

Another Letter of Introduction.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 16th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—The present will be handed to you by Mr.

* Letters of introduction are of two kinds: first, as to business; second, those of friendship. For example, if you have a friend going to a distant place to transact certain business, it may be necessary for him to form some acquaintances there for business purposes only. You have, perhaps, a correspondent there; yet you are not sufficiently intimate to ask him to entertain your friend; but as a matter of common courtesy he cannot refuse to accept him as a business acquaintance, for which purpose you write a letter similar to the above. Mr. Granger presents the letter to Mr. Howland, and if the latter chooses to consider it strictly a business letter, there is no breach of etiquette. He can invite Mr. Granger to his house, or not, as he pleases. Business letters of introduction are usually presented personally. See page 117.

Scott, partner of Mr. Holly, who was *himself* an associate of the house of Crosswell & Co., Mobile. Mr. Scott intending to visit your city on business of his house, I take the liberty of recommending him to you, and of begging you to render him all the services in your power, and to furnish him all the information of which he may have need, or which may appear likely to you to insure the success of his trip. Should Mr. Scott have need of any money for his expenses, you will be good enough to let him have what he may ask for, and charge the same to our account.

Very respectfully,

Yours etc.,

LEWIS & CLARK.

TO JAMES MINTURN, ESQ., Warren St., New York.

From a Country Merchant to a Wholesale House, requesting an Extension of Credit.

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 19th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—You may have perhaps observed that my transactions with you have been steadily increasing in amount for a considerable time back, which I feel pleasure in assuring you is only an indication of a proportionate extension of my general business.

From the inadequacy of the capital with which I commenced to meet the growing requirements of my trade, and the lengthened credit I am obliged to give, generally four, and in many instances six months, I have been under the necessity of keeping but a very small stock, which has materially inconvenienced me in the execution of orders. Under the impression that you have confidence in my honesty, steadiness, and unflagging attention to business, I beg to ask if you would favor me by extending your term of credit from three months to six, or, say, accept my note at three months in settlement of the quarterly account. This arrangement would afford me greater facili-

ty in meeting my obligations, and enable me to keep stock sufficient for all ordinary demands.

I may add that my customers are all of a highly respectable class, my trade a safe and steady one, and that anything like a reckless extension of it is very far indeed from my intention.

I shall feel obliged by reply at your earliest convenience, and

I am, gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,
HENRY CASWELL.

TO MESSRS. MARVIN & BANGS, New York.

A Merchant in Pecuniary Difficulties to an Importunate Creditor.

LOUISVILLE, March 24th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—From a variety of unforeseen causes, but chiefly from a heavy loss I sustained by a customer in whom I placed the highest confidence, I regret to inform you I am not in a position to meet my obligations. As you are, unfortunately for yourself, one of my principal creditors, I make this appeal to you not to press your claim and increase expenses, until I see my way to a complete extrication from my present embarrassment. It is my desire to pay every cent I owe, doing justice to all; and I am resolved, in the event of legal prosecution, to make an assignment for the benefit of *all* my creditors. I have made a careful examination of my affairs, and find that my assets amount to $9,500, my debts to $11,000, showing a deficiency of $1,500. What I propose doing under these circumstances is to make an offer of 75 cents on the dollar payable in six months; security to be given to the satisfaction of the creditors, or a committee of their number. These proposals are so reasonable that I am convinced the majority of those having claims against me will at once

concur in them, and I trust that your consent will not be withheld.

Should any doubts be entertained of the accuracy of my state of affairs as herein represented, I am willing to submit my books and stock to examination by any properly authorized and competent parties.

I shall communicate to you in a few days the result of my correspondence with other creditors.

Meantime I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL SCRAPE.

TO MR JOHN GRINDHARD, Philadelphia, Pa.

Recommending a Successor on retiring from Business.

CINCINNATI, June 3d, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—We flatter ourselves that there are many friends among our connection, who will regret to hear that we are just upon the point of relinquishing business. In doing so, our premises and stock of goods will be transferred to the hands of Messrs. Harris & Co., who will, in future, carry on the business on the same approved system and extensive scale as ourselves, provided they can rely on receiving the patronage of our connection; in the hopes of which it is our pleasure and duty to present those gentlemen to your notice. We cannot speak too highly of the confidence we feel in their liberal mode of conducting business, and their strict attention and punctuality in their mercantile transactions; and in the hope that they may be honored with the same countenance received by ourselves from your respectable firm,

We beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your obliged and most obedient servants,

STOCKWELL & Co.

TO MESSRS. FRAZAR & HARDY, Columbus, Ohio.

An urgent Application for Payment.

BOSTON, July 20th, 18—.

SIR,—Feeling much disappointed by your failure to settle my account according to promise, I am compelled to say, that the profits on my business will not admit of longer credit. At the same time, I should be sorry to inconvenience you, and will therefore fix the 27th instant for payment, after which it will be quite impossible for me to wait, however unpleasant the alternative.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

FREDERICK GORDON.

TO MR. THOMAS PEPPER, Springfield, Mass.

Answer to the Foregoing.

SPRINGFIELD, July 22d, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to assure you that circumstances utterly beyond my control have alone prevented me from paying your bill. A recent death in my family, which has proved the occasion of much unforeseen expense, has been the principal cause, but my ready-money business has also been unusually slack. At the end of the month, when my own accounts are sent out, I do not doubt that it will be in my power to meet your demand; and I can only express a hope that the delay will not seriously inconvenience you.

I am yours very obediently,

THOMAS PEPPER.

TO FREDERICK GORDON, ESQ., Boston, Mass.

To a Correspondent requesting the Payment of a Sum of Money.

NEW YORK, April 12th, 18—.

SIR,—Although the balance of the account between us has been of long standing in my favor, yet I would not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected demand

been made upon me for a considerable sum, which, without your assistance, it will not be in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you, I shall then inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by

Your obedient servant,

HENRY MOORE.

TO MR. SAMUEL STOKES, Buffalo, New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

BUFFALO, April 15th, 18—.

SIR,—I have just received your letter, and am sorry to hear of your inconvenience. The account between us would have been sooner settled, but for the failure of two of my principal creditors. I have just, however, received a remittance from Troy, and am greatly pleased that it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is $——, for which I have sent inclosed a draft on a bank in your city. Hoping you will speedily surmount this difficulty,

I am, sir,

Your sincere well-wisher,

SAMUEL STOKES.

TO MR. HENRY MOORE, New York.

A Merchant urging Payment of an Account.

BROAD ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 20th, 18—.

SIR,—I must solicit your prompt attention to the inclosed account, which has already been due over two months. On the 30th, I have a heavy obligation to meet, which will

require all the funds I can procure ; and, as you have not remitted me any cash for some time past, I trust you will comply with my request, and forward a draft for the whole, or a considerable part of the balance due me. Please reply by return of mail, and let me know whether I may depend upon you.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES LEE.

TO MR. PAUL BROWN, Boston, Mass.

Reply to the Foregoing.

WASHINGTON ST., Boston, Sept. 22d, 18—.

SIR,—Your favor of the 20th was duly received, and contents noted. I very much regret that you should have experienced any inconvenience from my tardiness ; but I assure you it has not resulted from any willing inattention on my part. You are aware that it has been impossible to make collections, owing to the recent stagnation, which has paralyzed almost every department of business. Trade is however slowly improving, and as rapidly as collections can be made from those indebted to me I will remit you, to liquidate your claim. I have the pleasure to send you inclosed, a draft on a bank in your city for $——, which please place to my credit, and acknowledge receipt.

Yours very truly,

PAUL BROWN.

TO MR. CHARLES LEE, Broad St., New York.

Delaying the Payment of a Debt.

NEWARK, Jan. 14th, 18—.

SIR,—I really must beg of you to defer the settlement of your account till after the middle of the next month, when I shall be in a condition to meet your demand. Regret-

ting that circumstances prevent my being more prompt in attending to your wishes,

I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SMITH.

TO MR. HENRY LEWIS, New York.

On the same Subject to a Firm.

BOSTON, June 15th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—I much regret that circumstances prevent my being as punctual as is my wont, and hope you will kindly renew the acceptance you hold of mine for another three months. The failure of a person largely indebted to me, and some other losses in business, have caused me serious inconvenience, and I really must depend upon your leniency as one means to enable me to recover myself.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient and faithful servant,

THOMAS SLOWPAY.

TO MESSRS. CLOVER & CO., New York.

Urging Payment.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 15th, 18—.

SIR,—In consequence of my having a heavy sum to make up by the 25th, I must beg you to give immediate attention to my account, which has already run far beyond my usual limit of credit. You have not remitted me anything for four months, and I must really urge greater promptness on your part, as the nature of my business does not allow me to remain out of my capital so long.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BLACK.

TO MR. STEPHEN EASY.

In Answer.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 16th, 18—.

SIR,—I am really grieved to have occasioned you any inconvenience, but I assure you that the depression of business of late has had a similar effect upon trade, and I have scarcely known which way to turn to extricate myself from the difficulty.

If you will kindly wait about three or four weeks longer, I think I can safely promise you $——, and the rest of your account within a few weeks after. Again regretting that I cannot at once meet your wishes,

I remain, sir,

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN EASY.

TO MR. JAMES BLACK.

Another Reply, inclosing Promissory Note.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 16th, 18—.

SIR,—I am really grieved to have occasioned you any inconvenience, but I assure you that circumstances over which I have had no control have caused my seeming inattention to your demand. As you are so urgent for settlement, however, and I am still unable to hand you the cash, I beg to inclose promissory note at two months for the amount, which I shall be prepared to meet at maturity. Trusting this mode of settlement will suit you,

I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

STEPHEN EASY.

TO MR. JAMES BLACK.

A Hint for the Payment of a small Debt.

PEARL St., NEW YORK, March 7th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—Being at present rather short of ready

cash, I am compelled to remind you that I have in my possession your due bill for the sum of $——. I therefore hope to hear from you, if convenient, by return of mail, and remain, My dear sir,

Yours, most sincerely,

HENRY PRIOR.

TO HENRY SWIFT, ESQ., Broadway, New York.

Another.

PEARL ST., NEW YORK, March 7th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I must remind you that I still hold your due bill for the sum of $——, and hope you will give it early attention, as I am just now much troubled for ready money. Yours very truly,

HENRY PRIOR.

TO HENRY SWIFT, ESQ., Broadway, New York.

Another more Pressing.

PEARL ST., NEW YORK, March 7th, 18—.

SIR,—I must again remind you of your promise to take up your due bill for the sum of $——, on the 10th of ——. Nothing but my really wanting the money would have induced me to be thus urgent, but I assure you that further delay will materially inconvenience my business arrangements. Yours most faithfully,

HENRY PRIOR.

TO HENRY SWIFT, ESQ., Broadway, New York.

In Answer to the Above.

BROADWAY, March 9th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I am happy in being able to inclose you the

sum for which I have been already too long your debtor. Assuring you that unforeseen disappointments have been the sole cause of any want of punctuality,

Believe me, dear sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

HENRY SWIFT.

TO HENRY PRIOR, ESQ., Pearl St., New York.

From a Tenant to a Landlord, excusing Delay in Paying his Rent.

BLEECKER ST., NEW YORK, Aug. 1st, 18—.

SIR,—For ten years past I have been your tenant, and you are aware that I never failed to pay my rent when it was due; but now, owing to sickness and the general business depression, which has prevented me from obtaining regular employment, I am reluctantly compelled to ask your indulgence. Next month I will be in receipt of funds from a friend in the western part of this State, when I will liquidate your just demand. Your concession of this favor will be ever gratefully acknowledged by,

Your very humble servant,

RALPH HOSMER.

TO SIMEON MEEK, ESQ., West 14th St., New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

WEST 14th ST., NEW YORK, Aug. 3d, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I am truly sorry to hear of your sickness and mischances in business, and trust you will speedly surmount the inconvenience arising from them. It is very far from my design to oppress any tenant, and particularly one of whose honesty and punctuality I have had such ample experience as in your case. You need not therefore make yourself uneasy about the rent, as no demand will be made upon you until it is convenient for you to pay, for I feel

perfectly assured that you will not keep it from me any longer. I am, dear sir,

Yours respectfully,

SIMEON MEEK.

To MR. RALPH HOSMER, Bleecker St., New York.

From a Farmer, on the same Subject.

ORANGE, N. Y., Sept. 18th, 18—.

HONORED SIR,—I am extremely sorry that through a variety of unforeseen accidents, I am obliged to write to you on such a subject as this. The season last year was bad, but I was enabled to pay you. The present one has turned out much worse, and it being so long before we could get the corn home, it is not yet fit to be sold. I only beg your patience for about two months longer, when I hope to pay you faithfully, with gratitude. I am, sir,

Your honest tenant and humble servant,

JEREMIAH WILLIAMS.

To ELIJAH WEEKS, ESQ., Hackensack, N. J.

To a Physician in the City, asking his Advice.

WETHERSFIELD, CT., July 6th, 18—.

SIR,—For a long time past I have been suffering in the most distressing manner from a long train of symptoms which have baffled the skill of all the medical men down here, and which, I fear, if not arrested in their progress, will terminate in the total prostration of my strength. Loss of appetite, and desire of stimulating and artificial means of sustenance at irregular times, want of healthy sleep and consequent depression on rising in the morning, render life quite a burden to me, and interfere seriously with the discharge of my professional duties. I am of a florid complexion, slightly corpulent (*state description of*

appearance, habits, whether sedentary or active, etc., profession, and the hours it occupies, early habits, and any other particulars you think may bear upon the matter.)

My friend Mr. Stout, who has been staying here for a few days, speaks in high terms of your treatment of him under similar circumstances. As far as I can perceive, our constitutions, as well as our complaints, are very similar, and so satisfied am I of your professional repute, that I would gladly have paid a visit to New York to consult you in person; various reasons, however, render that impossible, and I therefore hope that you will enter into a correspondence with me on the subject. Meanwhile, I beg to inclose a check for $30 upon the Hartford Bank, and assure you that I shall think the restoration of my health more than an equivalent for any sum it may cost me.

I have the honor to remain, sir,

Your very obedient servant,

NATHANIEL NERVOUS.

TO GALEN CUREALL, M. D., No. — Fifth Avenue, New York.

To a Schoolmaster.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 10th, 18—.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I regret that the pressure of business prevents my accompanying my son down to Hartley Hall, as I should gladly have had a few minutes' conversation with you, relative to his future course of studies. At the same time, I have such thorough confidence both in your will and capability to train youth in a manner calculated to render them useful to themselves and others, that I unhesitatingly intrust my dear boy to your charge, only hoping that he may prove worthy of the attention which I feel persuaded he will receive at your hands.

I have the honor to remain, sir,

Your very obedient and faithful servant,

THOMAS CALDWELL.

TO THE REV. SAMUEL HARTLEY, Hartley Hall, Annapolis, Md.

From the same Gentleman, desirous of ascertaining the State of his Son's Improvement at School.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 7th, 18—.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I write a few lines to express my hope that the improvement of my son is such as to satisfy both your undoubted skill and attention, and my own anxiety. Feeling that his delicate health in early life has placed him at some disadvantage, I am the more desirous to ascertain the present state of his progress in your establishment.

With kindest compliments to Mrs. Hartley, and sincere hopes that we may both find George all that we could wish, believe me to remain,

Reverend and dear sir,

Your sincerely faithful servant,

THOMAS CALDWELL.

TO THE REV. SAMUEL HARTLEY, Hartley Hall, Annapolis, Md.

Form of an Order to be sent to a Publisher.

ELK CREEK, Dec. 3d, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—Inclosed please find $6.80, for which please send me, per return of mail, the following books :

Chesterfield's Letter-writer and Etiquette	$0.40
Richardson's Monitor of Freemasonry, (cloth)	1.00
Inquire Within	1.50
The American Boy's Book of Sports and Games	3.50
Brisbane's Ready Reckoner	.40

Please address

THOMAS WILSON,
Elk Creek Postoffice,
Stone Co., Mich.

TO MESSRS. DICK & FITZGERALD, Publishers, New York.

PART II.—APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT, WITH LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION—ANSWERS TO ADVERTISEMENTS.

From a Father to a Tradesman, to take his Son on Trial.

Boston, Nov. 21, 18.....

Dear Sir: My son James, who is now fourteen years of age, and has had tolerable advantages in the way of education, is anxious to learn the printing business. I would esteem it a favor if you could take him into your employment for a month or two on trial, and if you are satisfied with him, then he could be bound for a term of years, as may be arranged.

An early reply will oblige. my dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
Frederick Walker.

To Mr. Edward Jackson,
State St., Boston.

The Tradesman's Reply.

BOSTON, Nov. 22d, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note of yesterday, I shall be happy to take your son for—say three months, and if we are mutually pleased at the expiration of that time, his indentures may be drawn up for the customary term of five years, dating, if you wish it, from the day of his entering. The scale of wages will be arranged when I can judge of his suitableness for the business, but on this point I think you will find me as liberal as any of my fellow craftsmen in this city.

Your son may come here punctually at 10 A. M., on Monday, first, as I am going to the country for a few days on the following morning.

I am yours respectfully,

EDWARD JACKSON.

TO FREDERICK WALKER, ESQ., Washington St., Boston.

Application to a Firm in behalf of another Person.

CINCINNATI, April 29th, 18—.

DEAR SIRS,—As you were some time ago advertising for additional hands in your business, should you have any places still vacant, I beg to recommend to your notice a young friend of mine, Mr. Charles Brown, who has been for four years in the employment of Mr. Stephens, Cleveland. From my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Brown, as well as from the high opinion entertained of him by his present employer, I have every confidence in stating that his personal character and thorough knowledge of business are such as would render him a valuable assistant to any house requiring his services.

I am, dear sirs,

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD BURNS.

TO MESSRS NELSON & CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

From a Youth applying for a Junior Clerkship.

ST. MARK'S PLACE, NEW YORK, July 17th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—Understanding by your advertisment in the *Herald* of the 15th inst. that you are requiring the services of a junior clerk, I beg respectfully to offer myself as a candidate for the appointment. I am fifteen years of age, and, from my attainments in various branches of education, I believe myself qualified for the duties required.

I may mention that I am not altogether unacquainted with book-keeping and accounts, having for some months past assisted my father, Mr. Alexander Boardman, timber merchant, in the counting-house department of his business.

Should you entertain my application, I beg to refer you to John Davis, Esq., Broad St., and Mr. Jacob Park, hardware merchant, Chambers St., who will have pleasure in testifying as to my character and abilities.

I am, gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
THOMAS BOARDMAN.

TO MESSRS. TAYLOR & SONS, No.— Pearl St., New York.

Reply of the Firm.

PEARL ST., NEW YORK, July 19th, 18—.

SIR,—Having made inquiry of Mr. Park, one of the references named in your letter of the 17th inst., we are satisfied with his recommendation. Before making an engagement, however, we should desire a personal interview, and should therefore be glad if you could make it convenient to call at our counting-house on Saturday forenoon, at 11 o'clock.

Yours,
TAYLOR & SONS.

TO MR. THOMAS BOARDMAN, St. Mark's Place, New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

ST. MARK'S PLACE, July 20th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—I am in receipt of your esteemed letter of yesterday, and feel much obliged by your kind attention. I shall not fail to wait upon you on Saturday, punctually at the hour mentioned, and should my application be ultimately successful, no effort shall be wanting on my part to merit your confidence and approval.

I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS BOARDMAN.

TO MESSRS. TAYLOR & SONS, No. — Pearl St., New York.

Application for a Clerkship.

TREMONT ST., BOSTON, June 18th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—Observing your advertisement in the *Post* of this day, I beg permission to offer my servics in the capacity of general clerk. In addition to the testimonials inclosed, I am at liberty to refer you personally to my last employers, who are engaged in the same line of business as yourselves. I may state for your information that I am unmarried, and under twenty-four years of age.

Begging the favor of an interview,

I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

TO MESSRS. CHESTER & CO., No. — State St., Boston.

Testimonials accompanying the above Application.

TESTIMONIAL NO. I.—COPY.

BOSTON, June 18th, 18—.

We have very great pleasure in certifying that Mr. William Alexander has conducted himself to our entire satisfac-

tion during a five years' apprenticeship, which he has just completed. We have always found him conscientious and diligent in the discharge of his duties, clever and accurate at accounts, kind and obliging in manners, and of steady and correct business habits. Indeed, his personal character and practical knowledge of business are such as we have every confidence in recommending, and we sincerely wish him all success in whatever sphere he may hereafter be placed.

(Signed) RENNIE & JOHNSTON.

TESTIMONIAL NO. II.—COPY.

BOSTON, June 18th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—Finding that Mr. Alexander is a candidate for a situation in your house, I beg to say that during the two years he was in my employ I had every reason to approve highly of his character and services. Mr. A.'s principal duty was that of first salesman in my establishment, and while he kept my interests steadily in view, his polite manners and obliging disposition secured the good opinion of my customers. Mr. Alexander has frequently assisted me in the selection and purchase of goods, in which department his knowledge and taste were of great value. He is qualified to conduct correspondence, and is expert and accurate at calculations. Should any further particulars regarding Mr. A. be required, it will afford me pleasure to communicate the same on application.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES BLAIR.

TO MESSRS. CHESTER & CO., No.—State St., Boston.

Answer to an Advertisement for a Bookkeeper.

WASHINGTON PLACE, Aug. 23d, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your advertisement in the *Herald* of to-day for a clerk, capable of keeping a set of books by double entry, and familiar with general mercantile correspondence, I beg to offer my services for the situation.

I have long been accustomed to similar employment, and my last engagement terminated a few months back, in consequence of a severe illness, after having been continued for a period of five years, during which time I have reason to believe that my employers were fully satisfied with me. In addition to your expressed requirements, I beg to say that I am well acquainted with custom-house business, and have sufficient knowledge of French to conduct a correspondence in that language with ease.

I shall be happy to wait upon you with any further information you may require, and beg to subcribe myself,

Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

CLARENCE GALE.

TO MESSRS. HARD & PORTER, No. — Park Place, New York.

A second Answer to a communication from a Firm.

WASHINGTON PLACE, Aug. 25th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to your question as to the salary I should expect, I beg to express my perfect satisfaction with the offer you propose, and can assure you that, should we ultimately come to terms, no pains will be spared on my part to do justice to the confidence reposed in me. With regard to the guarantee required, Mr. Palmer's name will, I trust, be satisfactory.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CLARENCE GALE.

TO MESSRS. HARD & PORTER, No. — Park Place, New York.

From a Father to a Firm to take his Son as Apprentice.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—As I understood you have vacancies for two or more apprentices, I should be happy, if agreeable to you, to place my son George under your charge. He is now fifteen years of age, and has a decided inclination to follow your line of business in preference to any other. As I do not know your terms, may I request the favor of a note stating them; or if desirable, I should be glad to call at your office (or manufactory, warehouse, &c.) for that purpose, when we could enter into particulars.

I may add that my son has received a good plain education, such as should qualify him for the usual requirements of a man of business, and I think you will find him to be quick, and willing to receive instruction, of obliging disposition, and industrious habits.

I am, gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,
JOHN WILLIAMS.

TO MESSRS. JOHNSON & CO., Broad St., New York.

Application for the Position of Conductor on a Railroad.

TRENTON N. J., Nov. 26th, 18—.

GENTLEMEN,—I feel very desirous of obtaining a situation as conductor on the railroad under your control. I believe myself fully competent to fulfill all the duties of the place, having been for several years engaged in a similar position in the employ of the New Jersey Central Railroad Company. Your attention to the accompanying testimonials from the president, and chief engineer of the company just named, is respectfully solicited, and assuring you that if I obtain the situation I seek, I will endeavor to

show my sense of the obligation by a zealous and diligent discharge of my duties.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM BRIGHT.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS
of the Camden and Amboy R. R. Co.

Application for a Situation as Gardener.

No. — WEST FORTIETH ST., New York, April 15th, 18—.

SIR,—Understanding that you want a gardener, I beg to offer myself as a candidate to fill the vacancy. I have had constant experience both in nursery grounds and private gardens, and am thoroughly acquainted with the management of the greenhouse and hothouse.

I inclose some testimonials from gentlemen with whom I have lived, which I hope will prove satisfactory. The last situation I filled was with Mr. Ogden, who will, I believe, speak favorably of my character and fitness for the office. I am a married (*or single*) man with (*state whether any family*), and my age is thirty. Should you feel disposed to entertain my application, a letter directed to the above address will meet with prompt attention from,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

ANDREW FLORAL.

TO JAMES CAMERON, ESQ., Astoria, N. Y.

Application for a Situation as Coachman.

No. — TENTH ST., Philadelphia, October 15th, 18—.

SIR,—Having been informed that you are in need of the services of a coachman, I take the liberty of inclosing you the accompanying testimonials, to which I respectfully ask your attention. I have been reared in the country, and

thoroughly understand the management of horses ; in fact the care of horses has been my employment ever since I was a small boy. As a further evidence of my ability to perform the duties of the situation for which I apply, I may add that I had entire charge of the horses and vehicles of the late Mr. Barton, of Broad St., whose death occasioned the breaking up of his fine stables. Should my application meet with your approbation, I will be glad to engage as your coachman, and will do all in my power to merit your commendation.

JOHN RUSH.

TO ALFRED ASHBY, ESQ., Norristown, Montgomery Co., Pa.

From a Nursery Governess, in Answer to an Advertisement.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Jan. 3d, 18—.

MADAM,—Understanding that you have a vacancy for a nursery governess for your three daughters, I beg to state that I have occupied that situation for three years in the house of Mr. Temple, and only left in consequence of the family going to reside in the West. I am well acquainted with the usual routine of an English education, and with sufficient of French, drawing, and music to teach the first rudiments, and attend to the practicing in the absence of the teacher, which, I presume, is all that you would require. I inclose some testimonials, which, I venture to hope, will satisfy you as to my character and competency for the office. Should you honor me with your confidence, I assure you that neither kindness nor exertion shall be wanting to do justice to your children, without exercising undue severity or unkindness.

Awaiting the favor of your reply,

I remain, madam,

Your obedient servant,

SARAH MELVILLE.

TO MRS. CLARISSA SACKVILLE, No. — Logan Square, Philadelphia.

Requesting the Character of a Governess.

LOGAN SQUARE, Jan. 5th, 18—.

MADAM,—Having inserted an advertisement in the papers, requiring the services of a governess competent to instruct my three daughters, I shall esteem it a great favor, if you will inform me as to what extent Miss Melville, who has referred me to you, is capable of instructing her pupils in the higher branches of female education. I am especially anxious to obtain an amiable young person, who would be treated as one of the family, and would be willing to consider herself as the guardian of the morals, as well as the superintendent of the studies of my children. I am much pleased with the appearance and manners of Miss Melville, and should your report be favorable, I shall have no hesitation in completing an engagement with her.

I am, madam,

Your very obedient servant,

CLARISSA SACKVILLE.

TO MRS. HENRIETTA FLORENCE,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Favorable Reply to the Foregoing.

WALNUT ST., Jan. 8th, 18—.

MADAM,—I was absent from town when your letter arrived, or I should have replied immediately. I trust this delay, which I much regret, will in no way interfere with your arrangements with Miss Melville, for whom I entertain the highest respect and good feeling. During her residence of four years in my family, I ever found her amiable, industrious, and sensible. Well grounded in English, she likewise possesses a useful knowledge of accounts, writes a free and elegant hand, and speaks and writes French with considerable fluency. With regard to the accomplishments of music and drawing, she is fully competent to prepare

pupils for their finishing masters; and her general aptitude for teaching is increased by her patience and good-humor. I can scarcely add anything further than to express my wish that she may obtain a situation every way suited to her deserts, and that you may have every reason to be pleased with the results of your engagement.

I remain,

Your very obedient servant,

HENRIETTA FLORENCE.

TO MRS. CLARISSA SACKVILLE,
No. — Logan Square, Philadelphia.

To the Governess, from the Lady Seeking her Services.

LOGAN SQUARE, Jan. 8th, 18—.

MY DEAR MISS MELVILLE,—So favorable is the result of Mrs. Florence's testimonial that I unhesitatingly offer you the position in my household about which we have already been in communication. With every confidence in your ability and willingness to gratify my wishes for the welfare of my children, I can assure you that all that is in my power shall be done to render the task agreeable, and make you feel like one of our family circle.

Pray inform me when it will be convenient for you to enter upon your new duties, as I will at once make the necessary arrangements for your accommodation.

Believe me,

Dear Miss Melville,

Yours very truly,

CLARISSA SACKVILLE.

TO MISS SARAH MELVILLE, Norristown, Pa.

Reply of the Governess.

NORRISTOWN, PA., Jan. 9th, 18—.

MADAM,—I am happy to hear that your good opinion of

me has been confirmed by the kind verdict of Mrs. Florence. If convenient to yourself, I shall be happy to enter upon my duties on Monday next, as I believe you are anxious that no time should be lost.

I remain, madam,

Your obedient and faithful servant,

SARAH MELVILLE.

TO MRS. CLARISSA SACKVILLE,
No. — Logan Square, Philadelphia.

Unfavorable Reply.

SPRUCE ST., Philadelphia, Jan. 8th, 18—.

MADAM,—In answer to your polite inquiries regarding the character and attainments of Miss Melville, who resided in my family in the capacity of governess to my children, I am sorry to say that her disposition and acquirements were not what I was led to expect, and were far from being satisfactory. I found her very deficient in two departments, those of music and French (*or*, I found her manners extremely repulsive, and that, in the management of children, she had little or no command over her temper.) In other respects, I have nothing to say to her prejudice.

Regretting that I cannot give a more favorable reply to your letter, Believe me,

Your very obedient servant,

CLARA HARTMAN.

TO MRS. CLARISSA SACKVILLE,
No. — Logan Square, Philadelphia.

Application to a Clergyman for a Testimonial.

SIXTEENTH ST., New York, Jan. 10th, 18—.

REVEREND SIR,—Being a candidate for the appointment of matron in the New York Hospital, I beg to solicit the favor of a testimonial from you as to my general conduct,

which you have had opportunities of observing in your capacity of Director and Visitor of the institution where I at present fill a responsible place. And, should you deem me worthy of the more important situation referred to, anything you can do to forward my interests will be ever gratefully acknowledged by, reverend sir,

Your dutiful and humble servant,

ELIZABETH HARMER.

TO THE REV. JAMES DUNCAN,
St. Luke's Place, New York.

Acknowledging Receipt of Testimonial, with Thanks.

SIXTEENTH ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 13th, 18—.

REVEREND SIR,—I have received your most obliging and considerate communication, and I beg that you will accept of my warmest thanks for the handsome, if not too flattering, testimonial you have been pleased to hand me. I sincerely trust that my future career may continue to be marked by conduct worthy of your approbation, and assuring you of my deep sense of the obligation under which you have placed me,

I am, reverend sir,

Your obedient and grateful servant.

ELIZABETH HARMER.

TO THE REV. JAMES DUNCAN,
St. Luke's Place, New York.

To a Director of the Institution, soliciting his Interest.

SIXTEENTH ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 16th, 18—.

SIR,—As I am at present a candidate for the situation of matron in the New York Hospital, and being personally unacquainted with any of the Directors except yourself, I should esteem it a very great obligation if you would kindly exert your interest in my behalf, in proposing me for the

appointment and recommending my claims to the other gentlemen having a voice in the selection.

The testimonials which I have forwarded with my application speak for me better than I can myself, but should you desire any further particulars regarding my qualifications or experience, I shall be happy to communicate such on hearing from you.

Assuring you that my best efforts will be devoted to the faithful discharge of my duties should I be successful, and with sincere thanks for your past kindness,

I am, sir,

Your grateful and obedient servant,

ELIZABETH HARMER.

TO PIERRE PALMER, ESQ., Lexington Place, New York.

Returning Thanks upon Success.

SIXTEENTH ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 28th, 18—.

RESPECTED SIR,—Allow me to tender the expression of my most earnest and heartfelt thanks for the kind interest you have taken in my welfare, as evidenced by the active and influential exertions which have had such a successful result. That I may always be found competent to, and diligent in, discharging the responsible duties of my new sphere, and that you may have no reason to repent of the recommendation which so materially promoted my interests, is the fervent prayer of,

Respected sir,

Your most dutiful and grateful servant,

ELIZABETH HARMER.

TO PIERRE PALMER, ESQ., Lexington Place, New York.

Application for a Situation as Housekeeper.

NO. — GRAND STREET, NEW YORK, July 29th, 18—.

BOX 2,842 POST-OFFICE,—I beg respectfully to offer my-

self as a candidate for the situation advertised as above in to-day's *Herald*. I am at present, and have been for five years, housekeeper in the family of Mr. Harrington, No. — West Twenty-second St., to whom I can confidently refer you as to my character and qualifications for the duties required. I am also permitted to refer you to James Parker, Esq., Yonkers, N. Y., with whom I served two years in the same capacity, previous to my engagement with Mr. Harrington. My age is thirty-two years, and I am unmarried.

I am your most obedient humble servant,

MARY TAYLOR.

Application of a Servant for a Testimonial.

EAST EIGHTEENTH ST., NEW YORK, June 18th, 18—.

RESPECTED MADAM,—Being desirous of again entering service in my former capacity of cook and laundress, I write to ask the favor of a testimonial from you as to my general character and capability. I am sorry to have to trouble you, but I know that you will do anything you can to further me in obtaining employment. With my sincere thanks for your past kindness,

I am, respected madam,

Your grateful servant,

CATHERINE WOOD.

TO MRS. LYDIA BANNATYNE,
No. — West Forty-second St., New York.

The Mistress's Reply.

Mrs. Bannatyne feels obliged by Miss Catherine Wood's kind wishes; has much pleasure in inclosing a testimonial of character in favor of so excellent a servant, and trusts it may be of advantage to her in securing the situation.

SERVANT'S CHARACTER.

Catherine Wood served in my house as cook and laundress from the spring of 18— till the autumn of 18—, when she left of her own accord, returning home to assist her mother. During all that time she conducted herself to my entire satisfaction. She is an excellent plain cook, and a neat and careful laundress, understands all her duties thoroughly, and is zealous, active, and industrious in discharging them. Her moral character and habits are unexceptionable.

It will at all times afford me pleasure to communicate further information respecting her, should such be desired.

LYDIA BANNATYNE.

No. — WEST FORTY-SECOND ST., New York.

The Servant acknowledging Receipt.

EAST EIGHTEENTH ST., June 21st, 18—.

RESPECTED MADAM,—Allow me, with sincerity and heartfelt gratitude, to return my warmest thanks for your kind note and most flattering testimonial. I have no doubt the generous commendations you have bestowed will greatly help my prospects of success, and that I may at all times be found deserving of the interest you have taken in my welfare, is the earnest desire of,

Respected madam,

Your most grateful and dutiful servant,

CATHERINE WOOD.

TO MRS. LYDIA BANNATYNE,
No. — West Forty-second St., New York.

Inquiry regarding a Servant's Character.

No. — SPRUCE ST., PHILADELPHIA, May 14th, 18—.

MADAM,—Sarah Martin, who is applying for the place of

cook in my house, refers me to you for her character and qualifications; I shall therefore feel obliged by your informing me if she is honest, cleanly, industrious, and obliging; also, if she is well acquainted with plain cookery.

I am, madam, yours respectfully,

JANE FORBES.

TO MRS. JULIA WILSON, No. — Arch Street, Philadelphia.

Reply to the Preceding—Favorable.

ARCH STREET, May 15th, 18—.

MADAM,—In answer to your note of yesterday, I beg to inform you that Sarah Martin has been in my service as cook and housemaid for three years. I have always found her honest, truthful, clever at her work, cleanly, good tempered, and willing to oblige. She has a good practical knowledge of cookery and general household work. I part with her on account of a difference about wages, and can recommend her confidently as likely to give you every satisfaction.

I remain, madam, yours respectfully,

ESTHER WILSON.

TO MRS. JANE FORBES, No. — Spruce St., Philadelphia.

Unfavorable.

ARCH STREET, May 15th, 18—.

MADAM,—In reply to your polite note, I beg to inform you that Sarah Martin has lived with me in the capacity referred to for six months, and leaves my service in consequence of her inaptitude for, and ignorance of, general cookery. In other respects I have nothing to say to her prejudice.

I remain, madam,

Your obedient servant.

ESTHER WILSON.

TO MRS. JANE FORBES, No. — Spruce St., Philadelphia.

PART III.—LETTERS BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

Returning Thanks for a Present.

Nazareth, Dec. 10th, 18.....

Dear Mamma: I was no less delighted with your kind letter than with the present it accompanied. Knowing, as I do, that your whole life is occupied in promoting my improvement and happiness, I can only feel that each fresh token of your affection lays an additional claim upon my gratitude.

Dr. and Mrs. Boyce unite in their best compliments and wishes for your health, for which, believe me, I pray night and day.

Your affectionate and grateful son,
Walter McAllister.

To Mrs. Wm. McAllister,
Walnut St., Philadelphia.

Letter from a Little Girl at School, asking for Permission to return Home.

LINDENWOOD FEMALE SEMINARY,
BURLINGTON, N. J., Sept. 12th, 18—.

DEAR MAMMA,—O, I am so tired of this place! I cannot learn so many things at once; and I cannot bear going to bed without kissing you. You know, mamma, I have never been away from you before, and I feel as if I should die of grief if you do not let me come home again. *Do*, mamma, *do*, and I will love you forever.

Your miserable child,
ELLA CRAWFORD.

TO MRS. FRANCES CRAWFORD, Baltimore, Md.

Answer of the Mother.

BALTIMORE ST., BALTIMORE, Sept. 19th, 18—.

MY DEAR CHILD,—I am sorry that you should pain me by so unreasonable a request. You know well that nothing pleases me more than to have my children around me; but you must recollect that all your brothers and sisters have been to school before you, and they never complained. I know that you, being the youngest, have been petted a great deal by all of us; but for that very reason, you ought to try and give us pleasure by growing up a good and clever girl.

Believe me, my dear child, you will find school become more pleasant every day, as you get better acquainted with your schoolfellows, and as your improvement gains the approval of your teacher. Youth, my dear little girl, is the time for exertion; for if we lose the precious hours of early life, we have naught to look back to but disappointment and regret.

I have written to Mrs. Custer to ask her not to give you so many lessons at first, and have no doubt she will do all she can to assist you. But you *must* try to be happy, and

look forward to the Christmas vacation as the reward of the little self-privation you are at present undergoing. With the united kind loves of your father, brothers, and sisters,

I am, my dear child,

Your affectionate mother,

ANNA CRAWFORD.

To MISS ELLA CRAWFORD,
Lindenwood Female Seminary, Burlington, N. J.

From a Young Man who has Recently entered College, to his Father.

YALE COLLEGE, New Haven, Sept. 30th, 18—.

MY DEAR FATHER,—I am happy to inform you that I passed my preliminary examination with tolerable credit, and that Dr. Swift was kind enough to compliment me on my Latin style. My former schoolmate, Charles Wood, has paid me much attention, and, as he moves in the best set in college, I am in hopes of establishing a pleasant and profitable acquaintance, without running into extravagance, or defeating the whole purpose of my collegiate career. I need hardly tell you, my dear father, that college society is of a most mixed character; and it is not easy to ascertain at once whom it is advisable to know. At the same time, I trust to avoid the superciliousness which seems to be affected by many men down here, and to enjoy the many healthy recreations for which we have so many facilities, without giving either you or myself any cause for regretting the day that first saw me a college man.

Present my kindest love to my dear mother and sisters, and assure them that even a college life does not prevent my feeling a strong yearning after home. But I shall look forward to seeing all of you at our ensuing grand commencement, when New Haven will be swarming with visitors. The check you so kindly sent me arrived in due course, and was not only fully adequate to the expenses of

my entrance, but has left a surplus which will last me throughout the term. Believe me, my dear father,

Your affectionate son,

ARTHUR GARDNER.

TO GERALD GARDNER, ESQ.,
Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.

From a Father to his Son at School.

WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 22d, 18—.

MY DEAR SON,—I am delighted to hear of your progress, and send you a little remittance of pocket-money, to prove to you that I am ever ready to give encouragement where it is deserved. You must always bear in mind that upon your career at school much of your future life must depend. To waste the precious hours of youth is to make preparation for a useless and dishonorable old age; whereas by steady industry, care of that health with which God has happily blessed you, and submission to those who have the best right, as well as the best inclination, to advise you for your good, you may hope to ripen into a respectable and useful member of society, and to render yourself fit to encounter those responsibilities which fall to every man's lot. Your mother unites in hearty wishes that you may go on as you have begun, and that your whole life may prove a credit to yourself, and a comfort to us. Give our best respects to your excellent preceptor, and believe me,

Your affectionate father,

WILLIAM MCALLISTER.

TO MASTER WALTER MCALLISTER,
Nazareth Hall, Nazareth, Pa.

From a Boy at School, to his Father.

NAZARETH, Sept. 27th, 18—.

MY DEAR FATHER,—Many thanks for your kind present and valuable advice. I sincerely hope that your good

opinion of me will long remain unchanged, and that I may be able to do justice to the strenuous exertions and kindly attention of my excellent preceptor.

I am at present working very hard, and hope to gain one step higher in the school before the end of the quarter. My schoolfellows are, generally speaking, very agreeable and well disposed boys, and we are so well treated, that I feel almost as happy as if I were at home. Nevertheless, I often think of the coming vacation with eagerness, and long to meet you and my dear mother, brothers, and sisters, and to enjoy the Christmas festivities in the way we have always been accustomed.

Your affectionate and grateful son,

WALTER MCALLISTER.

TO WILLIAM MCALLISTER, Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

From the same, to both Parents.

NAZARETH, Oct. 1st, 18—.

MY DEAR PARENTS,—It will doubtless give you much pleasure to learn that, owing to the unremitting attention of the Rev. Mr. Cox, I have made so satisfactory a progress, that I have not only been removed one class higher in the school, but have carried off the second prize for Latin verse.

I sincerely hope that I may continue sufficiently industrious to keep up all the expectations you have formed of me, and which you have spared no pains or expense to realize. With mingled feelings of regret at leaving my kind preceptor, and of delight at the prospect of our speedy meeting for the holidays,

I remain, my dearest parents,

With kindest love to all at home,

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

WALTER MCALLISTER.

TO MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM MCALLISTER,
Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

From the same, announcing the coming Vacation.

NAZARETH, Dec. 3d, 18—.

DEAR FATHER (*or* MOTHER),—It is with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure that I announce to you the conclusion of this term at school. On the 24th inst. I shall hope to return home, and, if I may judge by the opinion Dr. Fisk has expressed of my conduct, I trust you will not be dissatisfied with my progress during the last season.

I remain, dear parents,

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

WALTER MCALLISTER.

TO MR. (*or* MRS.) WILLIAM MCALLISTER,
Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

From a Young Lady at School, to her Mother.

OAKLAND ACADEMY, April 17th, 18—.

MY DEAREST MAMMA,—Although I was almost heart-broken at parting from you for the first time in my life, I felt that you would never have let me quit home but for my own good; and I hope I am not ungrateful enough to prefer mere selfish gratification to future welfare.

I find school much less disagreeable than I had expected. There are, of course, many varieties of disposition—for a school is like a little world—but, for the most part, the girls make themselves very pleasant to me. Mrs. Vane is kindness itself, and sets an example of mutual good will to all of us.

My studies are, I think, progressing satisfactorily, though I am, of course, in the background as yet, especially in my French. The music-master is rather passionate, particularly if we play out of time, which you know, dear mamma, used to be an unfortunate fault of your Julia's. But he

takes great pains, and I think you will have less to complain of in my playing when I return.

How I long to kiss and embrace you again! God bless you, dear mamma, and believe me,

Your ever affectionate child,

JULIA DARTON.

To Mrs. LIONEL DARTON, St. Mark's Place, New York.

Answer of the Mother.

ST. MARK'S PLACE, NEW YORK, April 22d, 18—.

MY DEAREST CHILD,—I was delighted to receive your affectionate and gratifying letter. Believe me, that for a widowed mother to be parted from her only darling is a sad trial, especially when the elasticity of youth and health is so much diminished. I shall look forward with joy to the summer vacation, when I intend to take you with me on a trip to Niagara Falls and the White Mountains. You will then have an opportunity of seeing many of those wonders of scenery of which you have only read in books, as well as of improving your health, and returning to school with greater aptitude and relish for study.

Write to me from time to time, and let me know all the news of your "little world;" for, believe me, everything that pertains to the welfare and progress of my darling child, is of consequence in the eyes of your mother.

Pray present my kind respects to Mrs. Vane, and thank her for her kindly care of you.

That God may bless you, and make you all that I could wish, is the constant prayer of

Your affectionate mother,

MARGARET DARTON.

To MISS JULIA DARTON,
Oakland Academy, Springfield, Mass.

Announcing Vacation.

MOUNT VERNON FEMALE INSTITUTE, June 1st, 18—.

MY DEAR PARENTS,—It is with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure. that I announce that the termination of this half year's work is fixed for the 10th instant. I sincerely hope that I shall not only find you both in excellent health, but that you will be satisfied with my improvement since I left home. No pains have been spared by any of my teachers to render me worthy of your good opinion ; and I must ever feel grateful, both to them and to yourselves, for the pains bestowed upon my education.

Miss Martin desires me to present her best compliments ; and, with my best love to my sisters and brothers, believe me to remain,

My dear parents,
Your ever dutiful and affectionate daughter,
GRACE HARKAWAY.

TO MR. AND MRS. HERBERT HARKAWAY,
Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Acknowledging a Present.

ANANDALE SEMINARY, April 4th, 18—.

MY DEAR FATHER,—How kind of you to think of me immediately after your return from Europe ! The trinkets you sent me are so very beautiful that I should have been afraid of exciting the envy of my schoolfellows, had it not been for the liberal supply of French confectionery (of which, I assure you, very little now remains) by which they were accompanied. I assure you, I spare no trouble to win the good opinion of my school-mistress and teachers ; and, if I may judge from their kindness toward me, I am not altogether unsuccessful.

I am enjoying excellent health and spirits ; but I hope, now you are in New York, you will sometimes come and

see your daughter; for, believe me, nothing but an occasional thought of poor widowed papa ever intrudes upon my cheerfulness. Mrs. Morton has frequently expressed a wish to see you, so that I shall look forward with anxiety for that happy occasion.

Again thanking you for your thoughtful and liberal kindness,

Believe me to remain,
My dear father,
Your ever affectionate and grateful daughter,
CLARA LEWIS.

TO CHARLES LEWIS, ESQ., West 24th Street, New York.

From a Gentleman to his Son, at School.

MEMPHIS, Sept. 7th, 18—.

MY DEAR SON,—Though I have so long been silent, you have not been absent from my remembrance, and I should have written to you before, had I not waited for some intelligence which would have rendered my letter more acceptable. Nothing, however, of any particular importance has transpired, and I have therefore only to inform you that your mother, myself, and your brothers and sisters remain as well as when I last wrote. My knowledge of your usual good behavior and attention to your duties renders any fresh advice in regard to your conduct unnecessary. I leave you, my dear child, to the guidance of your own good sense, and the guardian care of Mr. Shaw, to whom myself and your mother desire to be remembered, with our compliments to his family. Believe me, with the best wishes of myself and your dear mother for your health and happiness,

Your ever affectionate father,
WILLIAM BRANDON.

TO MASTER ERNEST BRANDON, Paris, Ky.

From a Mother in Town, to her Daughter at a Boarding-school in the Country, recommending the Practice of Virtue.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 5th, 18—.

MY DEAR DAUGHTER,—Although we are separated in person, yet you are never absent from my thoughts; and it is my continual practice to recommend you to the care of that Being whose eyes are on all his creatures, and to whom the secrets of all hearts are open; but I have been lately somewhat alarmed because your two last letters do not run in that strain of unaffected piety as formerly. What, my dear, is this owing to? Does virtue appear to you unpleasant? is your beneficent Creator a hard master, or are you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of a gay, unthinking world? Excuse me, my dear; I am a mother, and my concern for your happiness is inseparably connected with my own. Perhaps I am mistaken, and what I have considered as a fault may be only the effusion of youthful gaiety. I shall consider it in that light, and be extremely glad to find it so. Useful instructions are never too often inculcated, and therefere give me leave again to put you in mind of that duty, the performance of which alone can make you happy, both in time and in eternity.

Religion, my dear, is the dedication of the whole mind to the will of God, and virtue is the actual operation of that truth which diffuses itself through every part of our conduct; its consequences are equally beneficial as its promises: "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Whilst the gay, unthinking part of youth are devoting the whole of their time to fashionable pleasures, how happy shall I be to hear that my child was religious without hypocritical austerity, and even gay with innocence! Let me beg that you will spend at least one hour each day in perusing your Bible, and some of our best writers; and don't imagine that religion is such a gloomy thing as some enthusiasts have represented; no, it indulges you in every

rational amusement, so far as is consistent with morality; it forbids nothing but what is hurtful.

Let me beg you will consider attentively what I have written, and send me an answer as soon as you can.

My dear daughter,

I remain your affectionate mother,

HANNAH MOWBREY.

To MISS HELEN MOWBREY,
Oakland Seminary, Hillsborough, Ohio.

The Young Lady's Answer.

OAKLAND SEMINARY, Oct. 10th, 18—.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I am so much affected by the perusal of your really parental advice, that I can scarcely hold the pen to write an answer; but duty to the best of parents obliges me to make you easy in your mind before I take any rest to myself. That levity so conspicuous in my former letters is too true to be denied, nor do I desire to draw a veil over my own folly. No, dear mother, I freely confess it; but, with the greatest sincerity, I must at the same time declare that they were written in a careless manner, without considering the character of the person to whom they were addressed. I am fully sensible of my error, and on all future occasions shall endeavor to avoid giving the least offence. The advice you sent me in your valuable letter wants no encomiums; all that I desire is to have it engraven on my heart. My dear mother, I love religion, I love virtue, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from my duties, in which alone I expect future happiness. Let me hope to hear from you, and I trust that my future conduct will convince you that I am what you wish me to be.

I remain, dear mother,

Your affectionate daughter,

HELEN MOWBREY.

To MRS. HANNAH MOWBREY, Cleveland, Ohio.

A Widower to his Daughter at School.

CHICAGO, June 14th, 18—.

MY DARLING,—Your last letter gave me much pleasure, as it conveyed to me the belief that although enjoying every comfort under the care of Miss Howard, you still cling with fondness to your home and to your father. Believe me, my dearest child, it was no small trial for me to part with you after my unhappy bereavement, but I felt that parental fondness must not be instrumental to making a sacrifice of a child's prospects, and that nothing can excuse a man debarring his children of the necessary advantages of education, in order to gratify the somewhat pardonable desire to see them around his own fireside. I trust, my dear girl, that when you return to Chicago your improvement in all that can elevate the character of a young woman will be ample atonement for the pain I feel in your temporary estrangement from me. Pray write me another letter soon, and believe me,

Your ever affectionate father,

JAMES MERTON.

TO MISS MARY MERTON,
Woodlawn Female Academy, Quincy, Ill.

To a Daughter on her Birthday.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12th, 18—.

MY DEAREST CHILD,—Your father, brothers, and sisters, all unite with me in sending you a thousand good wishes on this, your fifteenth anniversary. We could all have desired that circumstances would have admitted of your spending it with us; but feeling, in these matters, must oftentimes be sacrificed for our good, and our selfish delights must not be permitted to interfere with the prospects of those dear to us. The package which accompanies this letter, contains not only some trifling tokens of affection from all of us,

out the materials for a little entertainment which, I have no doubt, Mrs. Belmer will allow you to give to your schoolfellows, as I have written to beg a half-holiday on the occasion.

God bless you, my dear child! and that every succeeding year may see you increase in all that is desirable in body and mind, is the earnest prayer of your ever-anxious parents. With best compliments to your mistress and teachers,

Believe me,
Your ever affectiontate mother,
ISABELLA SANDFORD.

To MISS LUCY SANDFORD,
The "Oaks" Seminary, Princeton, N. J.

A Gentleman to his Daughter, on her Preference of a Suitor.

SUMMERSIDE, Dec. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR CHILD,—What pleasure must it give me when I declare that my children's conduct has ever displayed that dutiful affection, which has made their present happiness and future welfare my constant aim! To find that they have made a prudent choice in their partners for life, and to see them living in harmony and in comfortable circumstances with those partners, have been among my dearest and most cherished wishes. I suppose I shall occasion you some little emotion in mentioning the name of Mr. Hastings; but be assured, my dear child, that from my own observation of that gentleman's character, and from the esteem in which he is generally held, there is scarcely one among my acquaintance for whom I have greater respect, and whom I regard, from his worldly position, his integrity, his gentlemanly conduct, his prudent and well-known good temper, as being more likely to make a woman happy. I can therefore truly say, that although I shall sorely feel the loss of your dear company, I

cannot but approve of the choice you have made; and in regard to his visits in the character of a suitor, neither I nor your mother will offer any obstacle. As you and Mr. Hastings have preferred addressing me upon this subject, by letter, I return my answer in the same form, and am,

My dear child,

Your ever affectionate father,

JOHN HARTLEY.

TO MISS ARABELLA HARTLEY.

A Gentleman to his Son, on the Marriage of the Latter.

NEW YORK, July 11th, 18—.

MY DEAR SON,—It is with no small pleasure and slight feeling of parental pride, that I now congratulate you upon your recent change of state. That you have my best and heartiest wishes for your future happiness you already know, but I feel a natural pleasure in again giving them expression; and here I have to add, that no parent could join in those wishes with more fervent sincerity than your dear and kind mother, who desires you to unite with me in the most affectionate regards to our new relation, our daughter-in-law. That your marriage state may be blessed with the same domestic happiness that has fallen to my lot, is the sincere wish of

Your ever affectionate father,

HENRY YOUNGS.

TO MR. CHARLES YOUNGS, Pittsburgh, Pa.

From a young Lady to her Mother.

BOSTON, Sept. 4th, 18—.

MY DEAR MAMMA,—From what you know of Boston you will not be surprised to hear that I have enjoyed an incessant round of gaiety and pleasure; my health, too, is

completely recruited, and my friends are so kind, that I almost feel at home.

But I have another more serious matter to confess to you, at which I hope you will not feel angry. It seems almost ungrateful to think of loving any one but you, but, O mamma, if you saw Henry Spencer, you would forgive me, I am sure. He is so handsome, so gentle in his manners, and yet so sensible and accomplished! We met at a party given by your old friend Mrs. Jay, and he scarcely quitted my side the whole evening. Mrs. Jay has so high an opinion of him, that she has repeatedly invited him to her house, until his visits have become of almost daily occurrence. He is most honorable and straight-forward, and only waits permission to write to you, in order to give you full particulars as to his condition and prospects.

Pray, dear mamma, forgive me when I confess that my feelings are deeply enlisted in his favor, and that I feel as if much of my future happiness depended upon our union. I wish you were here to counsel and advise me, for never before did I so much feel my own heart master of my reason.

I hope you will write directly, or come immediately to your affectionate but anxious child,

MAGGIE HOWARD.

TO MRS. AUGUSTA HOWARD,
Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Mother's Answer.

FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, Sept. 7th, 18—.

MY DEAREST CHILD,—Make yourself perfectly easy as to my consent to anything that can promote your happiness. If Mr. Spencer be what you represent, my fondest wishes that you might meet with a desirable partner in life will be realized. At the same time, do not be too hasty in giving

an unqualified assent to his proposals, but take time to learn those minute shades of disposition and character which nothing but constant acquaintance can display.

I shall be at Boston on the 15th, and shall not only be delighted to meet my dear child again, but to be introduced to the man whom she has thought so worthy of her affections.

Your ever loving mother,

AUGUSTA HOWARD.

TO MISS MAGGIE HOWARD, care of Henry Winthrop, Esq.,
Cambridge, (near Boston,) Mass.

From a Lady absent on a Visit, to her Daughter, whom she has deputed to act as Housekeeper.

UTICA, July 22d, 18—.

MY DEAR GRACE,—As the duty of managing our small establishment has devolved upon you during my absence, I am anxious to have some account of your proceedings at home, and should be happy to give you further instructions in case you have met with any difficulty, or find yourself at a loss how to act. You will have learnt from the letter which I sent to your father, that I continue to enjoy good health; and considering that I am separated from my family, the time passes as pleasantly as I could reasonably desire, my hospitable entertainers, Mr. and Mrs. Telmer, being constantly attentive to promote my comfort and amusement. We have had several most agreeable parties, and I have been favored with many introductions, and have formed acquaintances of a desirable nature. I have been very much delighted with some excursions which we have made in the neighborhood; amongst the rest, to (*mentioning the places.*) Yet, amidst all my enjoyments, my thoughts continually recur toward home, and the affectionate circle which has endeared it to me. I shall endeavor to return by the 8th; and in the mean time, let me repeat

that I am anxious to receive a full account of your domestic experience. Write, therefore, at your earliest opportunity, with such particulars as you think likly to interest

Your absent, but

Ever affectionate mother,

CLARA THORNLY.

To MISS GRACE THORNLY, care of Henry Thornly, Esq.,
Wall Street, New York.

Answer of the Daughter.

NEW YORK, July 27th, 18—.

MY DEAR MAMMA,—I was delighted to hear from you, especially as you write in such excellent spirits, and in such evident enjoyment of your excursion. Everything was left in such capital order when you went out of town, that I have had little difficulty in our domestic matters, and papa says that I am getting quite a little woman of business.

At this season of the year, very few of our friends are in the city, and we have not, therefore, had many visitors. Mrs. Shaw called the other evening, and made many kind inquiries after all of us, and Mr. Morton spent the evening with papa last Friday.

We were rather anxious about Emily last week; she was so languid and feverish that papa went off for Dr. Dixon at once. I sat up with her the greater part of the night, and scarcely left her room till she recovered. She was as patient and amiable as ever; but often wandered a little about mamma. However, as there was no danger, (so Dr. Dixon assured us,) we would not think of alarming you, and spoiling the pleasure of your visit by news that we knew would have caused you needless anxiety. Like all of us, dear Emily sends her love to you, and desires me to tell you that she never was better or more happy than at present.

Our time is passed much as usual. Miss Townley, our governess, is as kind to the younger children as you could possibly desire, and proves a most agreeable companion and helpmate to myself in the performance of our little domestic duties. Papa and I go out a great deal; and he seems to find me a substitute, though a very poor one, for your society.

Sincerely hoping that, when you return, you will be pleased with all that has been done during your absence,

I remain,

My dear mamma,

Your ever affectionate daughter,

GRACE THORNLY.

TO MRS. HENRY THORNLY, Utica, N. Y.

Letter from a Father, remonstrating with his Son.

HARTFORD, CT., Feb. 16th, 18—.

MY DEAR SON,—I am sorry to learn that you are not quite as steady as I could wish. Habits of extravagance and dissipation are more easily contracted than shaken off, and it would grieve me beyond measure to find that you were bent on following that down-hill road which leads so many young men to destruction. Take my word for it, my dear son, that nothing but sorrow and shame can ever come of bad company, late hours, and neglect of duty, and inattention to the obligations of religion. I am willing to believe that your faults so far are the result of thoughtlessness rather than vicious inclinations; but you must reform your habits forthwith, or you will incur my serious displeasure. I say this for your own sake, and hope I shall not have to repeat the warning, or to use more severe language. Think of what I have said, *seriously*.

Your anxious father,

SAMUEL MONROE.

TO MR. HENRY MONROE, No. — Broad St., New York.

The Son's Reply.

BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, Feb. 18th, 18—.

DEAR FATHER,—The good advice contained in your letter shall not be neglected. I admit that I have given you reason to complain of me, but will endeavor to show you, by my future conduct, that I have thoroughly repented of my folly. I respect and love you too much to give you pain deliberately, and if I know myself you shall henceforward have no cause for anxiety on my account. Excuse me, my dear father, for having grieved and worried you, and believe me your affectionate and repentant son,

HENRY MONROE.

TO SAMUEL MONROE, ESQ., Hartford, Ct.

From a Young Gentleman, clerk to a Merchant in the City, to his Father in the Country, soliciting Pocket-money.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15th, 18—.

DEAR FATHER,—I wrote to you by Mr. Cole, but not having received any answer I feel very uneasy. Although I have been as good an economist as possible, yet I find the pocket-money you allow me to collect monthly from Mr. Jones, the publisher, is not sufficient to support my necessary expenses, although it was ample for that purpose at first. New York is an expensive place to live in, and unless one maintains something of character he is apt to be treated with contempt, and become an object of ridicule. I assure you that I abhor every sort of extravagance, but the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is absolutely necessary to promote my welfare, which, I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. I submit it to your judgment, and shall unhesitatingly defer to your decision. I did not choose to mention my want of money to Mr. Jones, and for this reason have not taken anything more than you ordered. I hope you will not be

offended with what I have written; as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and being worthy of the esteem of my beloved parent. With this sincere assurance I am, dear father, your affectionate son,

EDWARD GERARD.

TO SAMUEL GERARD, ESQ., Schoharie, N. Y.

The Father's Answer.

SCHOHARIE, N. Y., Dec. 20th, 18—.

MY DEAR CHILD,—My reason for not sending to you sooner is, that I had been on a journey to Syracuse, where I was detained longer than I expected, and consequently did not see your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and am convinced that it is altogether reasonable. You are greatly mistaken if you think that I wanted to confine you to the small matter paid by Mr. Jones. No, it was indeed an inadvertency; but my constant residence in the country makes me little acquainted with the customs of New York. I do not wish to confine you to any particular sum; you have now arrived at an age when it becomes absolutely necessary for you to be well acquainted with the value of money. Your profession likewise requires it; and it is well known that prudence and sobriety in youth, naturally lead to regularity of conduct in more advanced years. Virtue ensures respect, and I well know that all manner of precepts are useless where the inclinations are vicious. I have left the affair mentioned in your letter entirely to your own discretion; and the inclosed order is unlimited. I doubt not prudence will direct you how to proceed. I am, dear child, your affectionate father.

SAMUEL GERARD.

TO MR. EDWARD GERARD, No. — Broadway, New York.

From a Soldier to his Parents after a Victory.

MISSION RIDGE, TENN., Nov. 26th, 18—.

MY DEAR PARENTS,—I write in haste to you that we have just gained a glorious victory, though with considerable loss to ourselves. Wonderful to say, despite many narrow escapes during the terrific carnage and confusion, I have escaped without a wound of any sort. You will, I am sure, unite with me in rendering hearty thanks to God for this great mercy.

Our regiment is expected to start for Nashville on the 30th, but, as matters are comparatively quiet there, I hope that I may be able to procure a furlough and return home.

Give my dearest love to Susan and the children, and believe me,

Your delighted and thankful son,

FRANK HARDY.

TO MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN HARDY,
Oyster Bay, L. I., N. Y.

A Parent's Answer to a Daughter, Absent from Home learning a Trade.

KINDERHOOK, NEW YORK, April 10th, 18—.

TO OUR DEAR ANNA MARIA,—Your letter, which we duly received, did indeed comfort our hearts; for notwithstanding our reliance on your prudence and virtue, yet your youth and inexperience caused an anxiety which none but parents know. Thank God, you are in a place, and one that is likely to be comfortable. We need not give you much advice concerning your duty; your good sense will indicate what is right.

We all miss you so much! Your brothers and sisters are often talking about you, and wondering what Anna Maria is employed about just then. As for poor William Kelly,

he cannot hear your name mentioned without tears coming into his eyes. Why did you not mention him in your letter? He thought it unkind. You say you cannot love him; yet surely you must esteem his kindness, his industry, and his good qualities.

Well, dear girl, we will leave this to time. You are far too young to unite yourself to any one for the present; and we do not fear your forming an engagement without seeking the counsel of your parents; but, no doubt, whenever that happens we shall approve of your choice.

Nothing particular has occurred among our friends and neighbors since you left.

But all desire to be kindly remembered, William Kelly in particular. We have nothing more to add, but our blessing; and that God Almighty may bless and preserve you, is the prayer of

Your affectionate parents,

JAMES AND MARY STONE.

TO MISS ANNA MARIA STONE, Canal St., New York.

From a Servant in the City, to her Parents in the Country.

PHILADELPHIA, June 14th, 18—.

MY DEAR PARENTS,—Although I felt much at parting with you, and still feel sad at the recollection of my ingratitude for all your kindness to me, I ought to thank Providence from my heart, for the degree of comfort and happiness I have enjoyed since I left home. Having now been a month in Mr. Polton's service, and become accustomed to the work and arrangements of the house, I have much pleasure in telling you that I like the place very well; also, that both Mr. and Mrs. Polton are exceedingly kind to me. There is a family of four children, three sons and a daughter, the latter, a beautiful child two years old, being the youngest. The others are aged four, seven, and nine years,

and all of them are well-trained, obliging, and intelligent. Mr. Polton is connected with a large warehouse in the city, and appears to be in very good circumstances.

For the first few days I was here, everything seemed strange and unusual to me, particulary the streets, crowded as they are from morning till night with multitudes of people, and vehicles of almost every description. I have now, however, become familiar with the sight, and would no doubt think my native village dull and lifeless compared with the bustle and activity of this city.

My dear parents, I return you my heartfelt thanks for the good advice you gave me in going among strangers, and be assured I shall endeavor to act according to it wherever I am situated.

Give my best respects to all inquiring friends, and in hopes of hearing from you soon, I remain, with love to all at home,

Your dutiful and affectionate daughter,

SARAH JANE MARSH.

TO MR. AND MRS. MARSH, West Chester, Pa.

Her Mother's Reply.

WEST CHESTER, June 21st, 18—.

DEAR SARAH,—Your letter, which came duly to hand, has given father and myself great satisfaction. Nothing indeed can be a higher source of joy to our hearts, than to hear of your continued happiness and well-doing, and we daily thank the Almighty for his gracious and merciful protection of you. Although you are now removed from parental restraint, we fervently trust the precepts instilled into your mind at home, will always be your guide in life, and that, in whatever circumstances you may be placed, you will never forget your duty to God, to whom you owe all your mercies.

We are much pleased to learn you like your place so well, and that you find Mr. and Mrs. Polton and the family so agreeable. Remember the best return you can make for their kindness is to be industrious, honest, good-tempered, and obliging—doing your duty faithfully, which will be a real satisfaction to yourself as well as to your employers.

We have been requested to convey kindest remembrances from several of your friends here who have been inquiring for you; and, assuring you that the united prayers of your parents are continually offered for your prosperity in soul and body, I remain,

Dear Sarah,

For father and self,

Your affectionate mother,

JANE MARSH.

TO MISS SARAH JANE MARSH,
Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

From an old Mechanic to his Son, recently Married.

NORRISTOWN, PA., July 10th, 18—.

DEAR BOB,—I am more familiar with the use of a saw than a pen, but my dear boy, I feel it a duty to avail myself of the present occasion to write you a few words of good advice, and I doubt not that you will be glad to hear from home.

During the winter, I was laid up with the rheumatism; but, I am thankful to say, I have now recovered. Your dear mother is well and hearty, and almost as active as a young woman, and more cheerful than many of them. It is my sincere wish you may be as fortunate in the choice of a partner as I have been; you will then have cause to rejoice throughout life, however long your days may be spared. By what I hear of the young woman you have chosen, yours is also likely to be a happy match; endeavor to meet her love, and I have no doubt it will prove so.

In most instances unhappy marriages are the result of bad habits on the part of the husband. I have known many working men spend two or three dollars a week at the tavern, out of their scanty earnings, and then complain that their homes were not comfortable, and their wives peevish and cross. I have no patience with such fellows! I hope you, my son, will keep away from drinking saloons, billiard rooms, ten-pin alleys, and all such places of ruinous amusement. Heaven knows, that out of the poor man's hard earnings nothing can be squandered, without taking from the dinner-table, or making the back suffer for it. It is unmanly to fret and scold about that which is the offspring of our own misconduct.

I am thus pressing on this point, because I know you are of rather a gay turn, and fond of company, and therefore the more likely to become an easy victim to improper habits. I would not have you morose; only keep your gaiety within due bounds; seek comfort where every man and woman ought to seek it, and where it is most to be found, by your own fireside. Take this advice as it is given, in kindness, and may it sink deep into your heart.

From your affectionate father,

REUBEN STOORS.

TO MR. ROBERT STOORS, Bristol, Pa.

From a Father to his Son, who is apprenticed at a Trade.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, Oct. 20th, 18—.

DEAR JAMES,—As the business to which you have devoted yourself compels you to be far away from your home, and the guardian care of your parents, I deem it my duty, from my larger experience of the world, to give you some advice. Obedience to your employers, or to such as they may place over you, is your first duty; and whatever may be your allotted task, do it with your might, lest you be

deemed careless or inefficient, and be careful to fill up profitably the spare intervals of your time.

Remember always that honesty is the best policy; and striving to win a good reputation in the estimation of your employers, let no temptation lead you to forfeit it. In everything you say or do, let the precepts of religion be your guide, and you will command respect and honor here, and ensure happiness hereafter.

Truly, your affectionate father,

STEPHEN COLWELL.

TO MR. JAMES COLWELL,
Care of Messrs. Price & Son, New York.

From a Son in Business in the City, to his Mother.

CANAL ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 19th, 18—.

DEAR MOTHER,—Your affectionate letter was received this morning, and I regret to say it reminds me that I have been too negligent in my duty of writing to you. I confess that in my anxiety to be successful in business I am too apt to forget that you may be lonely without me, but be assured I never cease in my affections, nor for a minute forget how much I owe you.

My business expectations have been more than realized, and my hopes for the future are such, that I think I shall very soon be able to offer you a home with me in New York. Therefore, dear mother, be of good cheer, for while the world goes happily with me, its sunshine shall rest on you. Be careful of your health, and do not fail to write me for anything you may require. With my regards to all our friends in Hudson, I remain,

Your affectionate son,

WALTER REMSON.

TO MRS. SARAH REMSON, Hudson, New York.

PART IV.—LETTERS OF FRIENDLY COUNSEL AND REMONSTRANCE.

To a Friend who has traduced You.

No. ... Pearl St., New York,
Dec. 15th, 18.....

Sir: I have it from good authority that you have spoken of me in most unfriendly terms to our mutual acquaintances. At first I could scarcely believe it, and hoped that there was some mistake. But the proofs of your misstatements and misrepresentations are too strong to be doubted. What could have been your motive for thus slandering me I cannot conceive? As you know full well that there were no grounds for the disparaging assertions you have made, the least you can do is to repair the evil by disabusing the minds of those to whom you have traduced me. This I shall expect of you, and without delay.

Yours, &c., *Henry Sandford.*

To Mr. Henry Merton,
No. ... Broad St., New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

No. — Broad St., New York, Dec. 17th, 18—.

Dear Sir,—I think the remarks to which you refer, have been taken more seriously than they should have been, by the parties who reported them to you. Still I do not deny that under the influence of vexation, for which I now believe there was not sufficient cause, I did speak of you in terms of which I am now ashamed. I therefore owe you an apology, and make it freely. Any false impressions concerning your character and conduct which may have been derived from my words, I will take care to remove by a full explanation. Hoping that this candid acknowledgment will satisfy you,

I remain, sir,

Truly yours,

Henry Merton.

To Henry Sandford, Esq., No. — Pearl St., N. Y.

From a Lady of superior Understanding, to a Gentleman who had felt unnecessarily piqued.

Revere House, Boston, May 14th, 18—.

Dear Mr. Vincent,—You are quite a mystery to me. I cannot, indeed, in the least understand your note. Nevertheless, whenever it pleases you to drop in and have a chat, I shall be very happy to see you.

Surely you know that I always looked upon you as a kind and valuable friend to Alfred; and I have invariably heard him, and all connected with him, speak of you in the warmest terms. My allusion was only meant as a caution against the possible misunderstanding that might arise if you inconsiderately drew such a youth into associations not suitable for him, in his present position, though blame-

less for you. Do not—I ask you as a friend—give way to susceptibility: but believe that every one wishes you the same good that I am sure you do to others.

My only motive in suggesting that it would be as well for you to see his parents, was to secure your own comfort. But, believing that all is for the best, I do not doubt that your decision is the right one, if you conceive it to be so. Remember, however, that I am, as my old friend's motto expresses it, "*promptus et fidelis*,"

And ever yours truly,

GEORGIANA MEREDITH.

TO CLAUDE VINCENT, ESQ., Cambridge.

From an aged Lady in the Country, to her Niece in New York, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentleman of bad Character.

GOSHEN, N. Y., Sept. 25th, 18– .

DEAR NIECE,—The sincere love and affection which I have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, when she was alive, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you of what I have heard of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedom you take with Mr. Martin. You have been seen with him at the theatres, in the Central Park, and other public places. Don't imagine that I write this from a desire to find fault, but believe me, your familiarity with him gives me no small concern. His character is extremely bad, and he has acted in the most ungenerous manner to two or three young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favorable an opinion of his honor. It is possible, as he has an uncle from whom he expects a considerable fortune, that you may be tempted to imagine his addresses an offer to your

advantage; but that is greatly to be questioned; for I have heard that he is deep in debt, and also that he is privately engaged to a rich old widow at Flushing. Let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company; for notwithstanding your purity of heart, your good name may be compromised by such open acts of imprudence. I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare, and I flatter myself you will not be offended with the liberty here taken, by

Your sincere friend,
And affectionate aunt,
SOPHIA SANDERSON.

TO MISS ARAMINTA ANDREWS,
No. — Waverley Place, New York.

The Young Lady's Answer.

WAVERLEY PLACE, New York, September 29th, 18—.

DEAR AUNT,—I received your letter, and when I consider your reasons for writing, thankfully acknowledge you my friend. It is true I have been at those public places you mention, with Mr. Martin, but was utterly ignorant of his real character. He did make me proposals of marriage, but I told him that I would do nothing without my father's consent. He came to visit me this morning, when I told him that a regard for my reputation obliged me never to see him any more, nor even to correspond with him by letter, and you may depend on my adhering to that resolution. In the meantime, I return you a thousand thanks for your friendly advice. I shall leave New York in about six weeks, and will call to see you after I have been at my father's. I am, dear aunt,

Your affectionate niece,
ARAMINTA ANDREWS.

TO MRS. SOPHIA SANDERSON, Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y.

Warning a Young Lady against an Imprudent Match.

BALTIMORE ST., BALTIMORE, November 6th, 18—.

MY DEAR MISS KENT,—I have so much confidence in your good sense and discretion, that I trust you will excuse me, as a very old friend, for offering a few words of advice to you on a matter which may seriously affect the happiness of your whole life.

You are young, and have been unhappily bereft of parental care for many years. Under such circumstances you are exposed to temptations, not only dangerous in themselves, but the more so in proportion as your innocence of heart renders you open and unsuspecting in your opinion of others.

Report seems to speak of Mr. Shaw as your accepted lover, or, at all events, as having paid you of late many attentions which appear to have been favorably received. I sincerely hope, my dear Miss Kent, that you will not feel offended at one who, from long knowledge, entertains a father's feeling—almost a father's anxiety—on your behalf, speaking plainly what he is but too well aware of.

I have long had my eye upon young Shaw's doings, and I am convinced that, without saying anything unduly harsh, he is not calculated to make any wife happy. He is violent and unrestrained in his temper, extravagant in his habits, and by no means particular as to the society he keeps. Believe me, my dear child, you never could be happy with such a man. Your life would be one of incessant suffering—you would find a tyrant to whom you had enslaved yourself, not a protector and friend on whom your weakness should depend for support; you would perhaps find yourself neglected and forgotten, when the fleeting charms of youth and beauty had departed, and yourself the victim of a man whose whole object is immediate gratification, but whose want of stability and decision of character totally incapacitates him from looking forward to the serious duties

of the future. Think well of this, my dear girl, and do not commit yourself by rashly encouraging the advances of a young man of so doubtful a disposition. Reflect upon the happy life your own parents enjoyed, and depend upon it you will find that affection, unaccompanied by esteem, is no incentive to linking your destinies with those of another.

And now, my dear girl, I close this long, and it may seem tedious, lecture, trusting that God may lead you to weigh anxiously and carefully the consequences of so serious a step; and that your own heart may be your truest and soundest adviser, is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate guardian,

REUBEN TRUSTY.

TO MISS MAUD KENT, No. — St. Charles St., Baltimore.

Letter from the Philosopher Franklin to a Young Lady.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I send you the books I mentioned to you last night. I beg you to accept them as a small mark of my esteem and friendship. They are written in the familiar, easy manner for which the French are so remarkable, and afford a good deal of philosophic and practical knowledge, unembarrassed with the dry mathematics used by more exact reasoners, but which are apt to discourage young beginners. I would advise you to read with a pen in your hand, and enter in a little book short hints of what you find that is curious, or that may be useful; for this will be the best method of imprinting such particulars on your memory, where they will be ready either for practice on some future occasion, if they are matters of utility—or at least to adorn and improve your conversation, if they are rather points of curiosity. And as many of the terms of science are such as you cannot have met with in your common reading, and may therefore be unacquainted with, I think it would be well to

have a good dictionary at hand, to consult immediately when you meet with a word you do not comprehend the meaning of. This may at first seem troublesome and interrupting; but it is a trouble that will daily diminish, as you will daily find less and less occasion for your dictionary as you become more acquainted with the terms; and in the meantime you will read with more satisfaction, because with more understanding. When any point occurs in which you would be glad to have further information than your book affords you, I beg you would not in the least apprehend that I should think it a trouble to receive and answer your questions. It will be a pleasure, and no trouble. For, though I may not be able, out of my own little stock of knowledge, to afford you what you require, I can easily direct you to the book where it may most readily be found. Adieu, and believe me ever, my dear friend,

Yours affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

From a Young Lady remonstrating with her future Husband on his Reckless Life.

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 18th, 18—

MY DEAR CHARLES,—It is with pain that I am obliged to write words so different from those which I have hitherto been accustomed to address to you, but I feel that, between persons who are to share their whole lives in common, nothing but unqualified sincerity should exist, and I therefore venture at once to speak my whole mind on a subject of vital importance to us both.

I have observed of late a sad change in your habits, language, and associates. Since we were together at Chicago, you appear to have assumed a taste for fast life, neither natural to your own disposition, nor calculated to qualify you for domestic life. Remember, my dear Charles, that our outset in life will be but an humble one, and that economy and

perseverance are our main resources if we hope to arrive at competency. The society of young men like Henry Sneer is highly prejudicial to you; they are possessed of more means than yourself, and, though perhaps without the willful intention of so doing, are luring you into a taste for expense which will give you a disrelish for the tranquil simplicity of home. Believe me, dear Charles, that these remarks are made in no spirit of meddling censoriousness, but that they come truly and sincerely from one whose hopes of happiness are centered in your well-doing. Think how bitter must be my sorrow to find that a mere life of pleasure should estrange you from me, and consider how vexed you would yourself to be if I displayed that negligence of the future which must render all happiness an impossibility. Be yourself, my dear Charles; return to the sound and manly pursuits which have hitherto been your chief study, and abandon a class of society which can only unsettle your disposition and destroy your whole prospects. I feel assured that your native goodness of heart, and the affection you have so often plighted to me, will make you take this remonstraance in good part, and that you will not think ill of one who advises you, not as being older and more experienced than yourself, but as loving you with a sincerity that alone could have prompted this address.

God bless you, my dearest, and grant that we may both be able to amend our own faults, and bear with each other's.

Yours most affectionately,

CLARA HILLGROVE.

TO MR. CHARLES MEDLEY.

From a Tutor to a former Pupil, now at College.

NEW HAVEN, CT., Jan. 29th, 18—.

MY DEAR HENRY,—I sincerely hope this brief epistle from an old friend and preceptor will not be thought im-

pertinent. I have known you so long, that I feel assured you will receive a few words of counsel from an older head, and that you will believe that whatever my advice be really worth, it is at least dictated in a kindly and straightforward spirit.

You have entered on a style of life in which the advantages and the temptations follow each other so closely, that it is often difficult to separate the one from the other. Even your talents may become a means of mischief if you do not exert severe control over their application and direction. But I know too much of your innate goodness of heart to believe that you will ever allow yourself to be spoilt even by success, and have a happy confidence in your integrity of character, which leads me to think you incapable of anything mean or flippant.

But, above all, let me exhort you never to forget the duty you owe to the God who has bestowed a share of his gifts upon you. We are all of us too apt, amidst the bustle and enterprise of every-day life, to forget Him upon whom our very life utterly depends, and to think only of worldly success, while we lose all thought of the life for which our present existence should be but a preparation. Let me express a hope, my dear Harry, that you will think goodness preferable to greatness; that you will study the cultivation of the soul as well as of the mere intellect; that you will recollect how great a virtue is reliance on God, and how noble a self-reliance is the result of such virtue.

That every honorable success, and every consequent happiness may be the result of your efforts, is the sincere prayer of

Your old tutor and ever sincere friend,

HENRY FARRINGTON.

TO HENRY HOLLISTER, ESQ., Princeton, N. J.

The Answer.

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 5th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—It is indeed delightful to receive such a letter from so valued and tried a friend. I sincerely hope that your example, as well as your conversation, has possessed sufficient influence over my conduct here to enable me to withstand some of the temptations of the place, and to think of duties higher than those which merely result from our ambition or self-satisfaction. I am happy in enjoying the society of young men who have greater belief in conscience than in mere talent; and I trust that, without advocating extreme views of any kind, I am living as you would wish me, and have taught me, to live.

My studies are progressing most satisfactorily, if, at least, I can take success as a warrant of merit. At our last examination I was placed in the first class, and I have every reason to hope for a like position this term.

I look forward with delight to the time when we shall again meet. Meanwhile, believe that no success can ever efface the remembrance of the kind friend and preceptor to whom I owe all. With sincere wishes for your health, happiness, and long continuance in your exemplary career of usefulness,

Believe me, my dear sir,
Your ever affectionate pupil and friend,
HARRY HOLLISTER.

TO THE REV. HENRY FARRINGTON, New Haven, Ct.

PART V.—LETTERS SOLICITING ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, OR OTHER FRIENDLY FAVORS.

Soliciting a Loan from a Friend.

Philadelphia, June 14th, 18....

Dear Harry: I was stupid enough to indorse Tom Hartwell's note for $500; said note has been protested, and I have been called upon to pay it. I find myself likely to be involved in some difficulty unless I at once meet the demand. Will you do me the favor to loan me $500 until the first of July, when I shall be in receipt of some funds from stock dividends, which will enable me to return that amount without fail. I am annoyed at being compelled to make this disagreeable application, but my imprudence has made it a necessity, and you must therefore excuse it on the part of

Yours most sincerely,

Frank Hopewell.

To Henry Kent, Esq.,
... Broad St., Philadelphia.

The Friend's Reply.

BROAD ST., PHILADELPHIA, June 16th, 18—.

DEAR FRANK,—You are heartily welcome to the sum you require, which you will find inclosed. No apologies were necessary, for your good nature has placed me under so many obligations that I am only too happy to have the opportunity of canceling one of them. But, my dear fellow, do take one piece of advice—never indorse for any man unless you receive a consideration. If you desire to accommodate a friend, and you find it convenient, lend him the ready cash, but if your exchequer is depleted, let him seek an angel elsewhere. By making and inflexibly keeping this resolution, you will save money, and avoid much unnecessary anxiety. Trusting you will receive this friendly advice in the same spirit in which it is offered, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

HENRY KENT.

TO FRANK HOPEWELL, ESQ.,
No. — Logan Square, Philadelphia.

Soliciting a Loan from an Intimate Friend.

LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, March 16th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—A disappointment in the receipt of some money due has exposed me to a temporary embarrassment. The sum which would extricate me from this painful difficulty is not large, as $400 would be amply sufficient to release me from my present pressure. I have so great an aversion to borrowing money from professional lenders, that I prefer the course of soliciting the aid of some well-known friend. I have thought of several, but of none with a greater degree of confidence than yourself. Can you grant me, then, the accommodation of the above sum, without in any way intrenching on your own convenience? If you

can, I believe I may rely upon your readiness to do so; and you may in turn depend upon it being reimbursed with the strictest punctuality by the 5th of April. A speedy reply to this request will extremely oblige,

My dear sir,

Yours most sincerely,

JOSEPH HOWARD.

TO MR. CHARLES HALL,
No. — Clinton Place, New York.

In Answer to the Above, Affirmatively.

No. — CLINTON PLACE, March 17th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just received your letter, soliciting the loan of $400, and it gives me much pleasure that I have it in my power to be able to accommodate so old and valued a friend. I therefore lose no time in forwarding you a check upon the National Broadway Bank for the sum, in reimbursing which I beg you will suit your own convenience, and thereby oblige

Your old and
Very sincere friend,

CHARLES HALL.

TO MR. JOSEPH HOWARD, No. — Lexington Avenue, N. Y.

In Answer to the Above, on Account of Incapability.

No. — CLINTON PLACE, NEW YORK, March 17th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I truly regret that my circumstances will not permit me to oblige a friend so dear to me as yourself; but at present I am in great need of money, and last Friday I was compelled to borrow, to meet a pressing obligation; I therefore do not have it within my power to comply with your request.

Trusting that you may be more successful in some other

quarter, and with feelings of regret at my own inability to render you a service which you might otherwise readily command,

Believe me to remain,
Ever your sincere friend,
CHARLES HALL.

TO MR. JOSEPH HOWARD, No. — Lexington Avenue, N. Y.

Declining to lend Money.

No. — SPRUCE ST., PHILADELPHIA, March 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have always made it a principle in life never to borrow or to lend money, not even when members of my own family have been concerned. I therefore trust you will excuse conduct which may seem harsh and unfriendly on my part, but which I have ever found to be the safest, and, in the long run, the kindest course for all parties.

I remain,
Yours very truly,
THOMAS KEEPALL.

TO RICHARD REPOSE, ESQ., Revere House, Boston.

To a Friend who had offered to become Security for a Loan.

No. — JEFFERSON ST., BOSTON, Oct. 7th, 18—.

DEAR HENRY,—Accept my sincerest thanks for the trouble you have taken in the matter of the loan, and believe that I am very sensible of your kindness in offering jointly with my brother to become security in case I should procure it from an insurance company. I feel your kindness the more, because it was unsolicited on my part. I am still anxious, if possible, to obtain what I want in the way I at first proposed; but if I am not successful, I may take advantage of your kind offer. In the meantime I have writ-

ten to my brother William, who is at the sea-side, to consult with him as to what is best to be done. When I hear from him I will either communicate with you personally or by letter.

Believe me ever
Most faithfully yours,
JAMES ALLEN.

To HENRY MEEK, Esq., Revere House, Boston.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, requesting the Loan of a Book.

GLENDALE, Sept. 7th, 18—.

SIR,—While last at your house, you called my attention to a book entitled the "Origin of the Species," which I remember as a work of so much interest that I feel much inclined to peruse it, and should esteem it a great favor if you would lend it to me. I will take great care of it, and return it in a few days, as I have at present abundant leisure for reading. I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN HOLMES.

To GEORGE SHERWOOD, Esq., Yonkers, N. Y.

Affirmative Answer to the Foregoing.

YONKERS, Sept. 8th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—You are quite welcome to the volume you express a wish to read; but I must ask you to let me have it by the middle of next month, as I shall then have occasion to use it for some literary purposes.

Believe me, dear sir,
Yours very truly,
GEORGE SHERWOOD.

To JOHN HOLMES, Esq., Glendale, N. Y.

Answer in the Negative.

YONKERS, Sept. 8th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have unfortunately lent the book you ask for, but should it be returned within a reasonable time, I will forward it to you. Regretting to be at present obliged to disappoint you,

I remain, my dear sir,
Yours most faithfully,
GEORGE SHERWOOD.

TO JOHN HOLMEN, ESQ., Glendale, N. Y.

A Gentleman on returning a Book he had borrowed.

GLENDADE, Sept. 30th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I return you the book which you so kindly lent me, and with it accept my best thanks for your courtesy. The work is both interesting and instructive, and I have been much gratified by its perusal. If I can in any way return the favor, it will give me much pleasure to do so. I am sir,

Yours, much obliged,
JOHN HOLMEN.

TO GEORGE SHERWOOD, ESQ., YONKERS, N. Y.

From a Young Lady to a Friend, requesting the Loan of Books during Sickness.

UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK, June 4th, 18—.

DEAR AMY,—I am far from well: indeed, I have been confined to my sofa for some days past, and have enjoyed no amusement but such as my few books afforded me. I write to beg the loan of some of the "Waverley" novels, of which I know you possess a complete set. They shall be taken every possible care of, and returned as regularly

as read. Pray look in for an hour now and then, and speak a few words of comfort to

Yours, ever sincerely,

MAUD ELVYN.

TO MISS AMY HEBERTON,
No. — West Thirty-fourth St., New York.

Favorable Reply to the Foregoing.

No. — WEST THIRTY-FOURTH ST., June 4th, 18—.

DEAR MAUD,—How grieved I am to hear of your illness! I send you half a dozen volumes, which I hope will lighten the tediousness of your sick-room, and will come and see you to-morrow morning. I should have done so ere now, but have been so variously engaged that I have scarcely had a minute to myself.

Wishing sincerely to find you better,

I am, dear Maud,

Yours ever affectionately,

AMY HEBERTON.

TO MISS MAUD ELVYN, No. — Union Square.

Asking the Loan of a Servant.

WEST TWENTY-SECOND ST., Dec. 15th, 18—.

DEAR MADAM,—I find that my party to-morrow night will be more numerously attended than I had reason to anticipate, and, unless I can secure the loan of a servant from some one of my friends, I shall not have sufficient assistance. If you will kindly permit your waiter to help my servants, I will be only too happy to oblige you in a similar way, should an opportunity present itself.

Believe me, dear madam,

Ever faithfully yours,

ELIZABETH MANNING.

TO MRS. ELLEN CURRIE,
No. — West Eighteenth St., New York.

Requesting a Friend to execute a Commission.

STAMFORD, Sept. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR KATE,—Will you kindly execute the following little commissions for me, as soon as you can make it convenient? Purchase for me at Stewart & Co.'s the following articles;—(*here state ribbons, muslins, &c. as wanted.*) Will you also call at Appleton's and inquire when Bulwer's new novel will be out, as I am all anxiety to know.

Please give them my address at Stewart's, and tell them to pack the parcel carefully and send it by express.

The weather down here is delightful; but I wish I had the pleasure of your company to render it more so. Pray write a line and let me know how soon you can make me a visit, and thus afford me an opportunity to thank you personally for your kindness.

FANNY FERTILE.

TO MISS KATE SHAW,
No. — St. Mark's Place, New York.

From a Friend in the Country, asking a Favor of a City Friend.

SCHOHARIE, Oct. 8th 18—.

DEAR FRIEND,—I shall have occasion to visit New York on the 15th, and as you are aware that I am a comparative stranger there, and business being my principal object, I write to ask you to secure for me a comfortable room in some first class hotel near the business center, in advance of my arrival, so that I may proceed to it at once upon leaving the cars, and avoid the usual inconvenience of getting accommodations in the fifth story. Leaving the selection entirely to yourself, and trusting I shall hear from you soon, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR POND.

TO HENRY GOODYEAR, ESQ., No. — Wall St., New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

No. — Wall St., New York, Oct. 11th, 18—.

My Dear Friend,—I am delighted to hear that there is a chance of our seeing you again, and hope that you will at all events contrive to spend one or two evenings at our house during your stay.

I have secured you a pleasant room in the Astor House, which I think is a very convenient situation for what you require. I happened to be acquainted with the chief clerk, and through this influence you will be accommodated upon the parlor floor. With best wishes for your safe arrival, I remain, Yours faithfully,

Henry Goodyear.

To Arthur Pond, Esq., Schoharie, N. Y.

From a Friend in the Country to one in New York, with a Commission.

Hudson, June 6th, 18—.

Dear John,—I have two small accounts due to me in New York, but they are too trifling in amount to allow of my making a visit to the metropolis to obtain payment of them. Will you therefore oblige me by permitting one of your clerks to call upon the parties, namely, Mr. Day, of Fulton street, and Mr. Shaw, of Nassau street, and ask for the several sums, the first amounting to $45, the second to $63. Should you obtain them, you can remit them to me by a check, or in any other way you please. I shall be most happy to return the favor, should any opportunity occur of so doing. I remain, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

James Smith.

To Mr. James Weeks,
No. — Beekman St. New York.

Application on behalf of another Person.

BOSTON, Oct. 1st, 18—.

MY DEAR TOM,—I am at all times adverse to troubling my friends on my own behalf, but there are occasions on which I venture to trespass upon their kindness when other people are concerned. A young friend of mine, the son of a worthy man of small means, has evinced so much taste for the arts, that I venture to hope you will give him some encouragement. He has already met with some success, but is most anxious to obtain the means of completing his studies in France and Italy. Knowing your liberality in aiding the efforts of the young and deserving, I venture to hope that you will join me in contributing to a fund that is forming to aid him in his praiseworthy design, as, from what he has already produced, I feel assured he will give his friends every reason to be satisfied with the results of their kindness. Believe me, my dear Tom,

Yours most faithfully,

CHARLES CHALMERS.

TO THOMAS SPRIGHTLY, ESQ., Cambridge, Mass.

From a Gentleman to a Friend, thanking him for Favors.

NEW YORK, April 17th, 13—.

MY DEAR SIR,—Allow me to express my most grateful acknowledgments for your repeated kindness and further offers of service. Should circumstances render it necessary, I may again take advantage of your generous friendship, and if there be any matter in which I could be of use to you in this quarter, I beg that you will do me the pleasure of permitting me to reciprocate to some trifling extent the many acts of kindness for which I can at present offer you only my best thanks.

I am, my dear sir, yours faithfully,

FRANCIS DALTON.

TO CHARLES PARKER, ESQ.,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Requesting a Friend to forward Letters.

IRVINGTON, N. Y., Aug. 10th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—May I trespass on your kindness to send me, in the inclosed envelope, any letters that may come through you to me, up to Wednesday, 21st inst. By so doing you will add to the many kindnesses experienced by,

Dear sir,

Your very obliged friend,

MARIAN MARTINE.

TO WILLIAM BRISBANE, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-first St., New York.

Friendly Letter of Introduction.*

NEW YORK, Jan. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—This will introduce to your acquaintance my esteemed friend, Mr. W. S. Bonfield, whom I am sure you will be happy to know. Any attention you may have it in your power to bestow during his visit to Chicago, will be gratefully reciprocated by

Your friend,

THOMAS PLEASANTON.

TO HENRY DART, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.

* It is not customary to deliver a friendly letter of introduction personally. You should send it to the person to whom it is directed, on your arrival, accompanied by your card of address. If he desires to respond to the request of your friend, he will either call on you personally, or give you a written invitation to visit him. A neglect to call would be considered by some people a mark of ill-breeding, though it really is not, as the person addressed may consult his own convenience or feelings in the matter. Nor is he compelled to invite you to his house unless he is so disposed. A simple return of his own card is all that is required, and then you can call on him at your leisure.

A letter of introduction should never be sealed by the person giving it; but the recipient should seal it when he sends it to the party to whom it is addressed. See page 40.

Another Letter of Introduction.

TREMONT ST., BOSTON, Sept. 13th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—The present will introduce to your acquaintance Mr. James Barlow, who is a much esteemed friend of mine. Mr. Barlow intends visiting your city for recreation, and any attentions you may be pleased to show him for my sake, I have no doubt you will continue for his own.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES STANTON.

TO ALFRED TEMPLE, ESQ., No. — Wall St., New York.

A Young Man to a Friend, soliciting his Interest in procuring a Situation.

NEW YORK, April 24th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—As you were kind enough to say that, in the event of its being in your power to forward my interests in any way, you would feel pleasure in doing so, I have now to inform you that my engagement with Mr. Stephens will shortly expire, when I shall be open for a similar situation in the same line, or in any other where my experience and business abilities would be an acquisition. Should you hear of any vacancy, your kind recommendation will oblige, and be gratefully acknowledged by,

Dear sir, yours truly,

CHARLES BROWN.

TO HENRY PERRY, ESQ., West Eighteenth St., New York.

From a reduced Gentleman, soliciting the Aid of an old Friend.

No. — SPRING ST., NEW YORK, March 7th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Though many years have elapsed since we last met, I trust that the name of Marmaduke Merton is not entirely obliterated from your memory. It is the same, your former friend and intimate companion, who now ad-

dresses you; but, I lament to say, sadly changed from the individual whom you then knew. My former flow of spirit has gone long since with my prosperity, and with those who once thronged round to flatter me. Sorrow, poverty, and the sneers and contempt of an unfeeling world, alone remain. This, to a man of your sensibility, must be painful to read, as it is for me to write. It is not my object to practice on your feelings by overwrought language. But my distresses have increased to that degree, that speak they will in some guise; and, urged on by them, I have stifled my previous repugnance at disclosing them to you. My state is that of the bitterest poverty—in fact, of destitution—and I make my appeal to your kindly feelings in the name of that friendship which once existed between us. My address you will find at the head of this note, if you think it worth while to seek

Your most unfortunate friend,

MARMADUKE MERTON.

TO ALLEN ASHTON, ESQ., Newark, N. J.

Favorable Reply to the Above.

NEWARK, March 9th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just received your letter, which I know it must have cost you much pain to write, and I must have been wanting in all friendly feelings, could I have read it unmoved. Most sincerely do I sympathize in your present sufferings, and as sincerely do I hope that some unlooked-for change of fortune may speedily relieve you from them, and eventually restore you to comfort and prosperity As far as my good offices can extend, you may readily command them, and, as some alleviation to your present necessities, I beg you will accept the inclosed check. Should you wish to see me, and call at my house, you will meet with the reception due to an old and respected

acquaintance; and with every hope that your present embarrassments may be but temporary,

Believe me, my dear sir,

Your ever sincere friend,

ALLEN ASHTON.

To MR. MARMADUKE MERTON, No. — Spring St., N. Y.

Reply, in the Negative.

NEWARK, March 9th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am truly pained to hear that your condition in life is so different from what it was in former and happier days, and the more so, because of my inability to relieve your present necessities. The expenses of an increasing family, and the difficulties consequent upon recent losses in business, render it impossible for me to act as I unquestionably would under other circumstances. Should a more favorable change take place in my own affairs, depend upon it I will not forget so old a friend.

With every kind wish that those who have the means, as well as the will, to assist you, may speedily be forthcoming,

Believe me, my dear sir,

Yours most sincerely,

ALLEN ASHTON.

TO MARMADUKE MERTON, ESQ., No. — Spring St., N. Y.

From a Young Man to an Elderly Relative, soliciting his Advice and Assistance.

NEW YORK, March 8th, 18—.

MY DEAR UNCLE,—From the kind manner in which you have always encouraged me to appeal to you whenever I required good advice, I am now induced to write to you. I have, as you are aware, been left to my own guidance

rather more than four years, and by economy I have saved a few hundred dollars, which I designed investing in business. A prospect has just opened which gives me hopes that I may, by industry and perseverance, at least realize a certain and comfortable living. Mr. Blelock, who has for many years successfully carried on the business of a grocer, is about to retire; and I find that if he could obtain a suitable offer, he would be inclined to dispose of the whole concern on most favorable terms. I have at my command $1,600, but the sum which Mr. Blelock would accept for the business is very nearly twice that amount; he is willing, however, to take security for the remainder, payable with interest in three years. Under these circumstances, dear uncle, I appeal to you; let me have your candid advice whether you view the offer in the same favorable light that I do, and if so, might I solicit you to become security for that part of the money which is beyond my present means of raising? I have no doubt of being able to repay it myself within the prescribed time. Your early answer will be esteemed a particular favor by,

Dear uncle, your affectionate nephew,

JAMES HARPER.

TO MR. SAMUEL HARDING, HARTFORD, CT.

From a Merchant's Widow to a Lady, a wealthy distant Relation, in behalf of her two Orphans.

NEW YORK, June 1st, 18—.

DEAR MADAM,—When you look at the signature of this letter, you will no doubt be much surprised with its contents; but it is more on account of your amiable character than the ties of relationship that connect us, that I have ventured to trouble you with this appeal.

My late husband, who you know was reputed to be in affluent circumstances, has been dead about six months: his whole accounts have been settled with his creditors, and

because of many losses and bad debts there is not above $500 left for myself. I have a son just fourteen, whom I want to get in some respectable wholesale house; and a daughter, near seventeen, whose education has rendered her incapable of acting as a servant, although she would willingly become teacher in a public or private school, or take scholars for the piano-forte. Under circumstances so distressing, I have ventured to address myself to you; your long acquaintance with the world will enable you to direct me how to proceed, and I doubt not that your kind feelings will induce you to comply with a request dictated by the severity of affliction.

Very respectfully yours,

CLARA WOOD.

TO MRS. ANNA HARMER,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Lady's Answer.

No. — WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, June 4th, 18—.

DEAR COUSIN,—I know not whether I am more affected with the modest representation of your affliction, or pleased that I have it in my power to assist you. How true it is that all human expectations are vain, and often attended with deception! When we think our circumstances are independent, there is generally some latent mischief hidden under specious appearance, and this should teach us continually to look to that Providence which superintends the affairs of this world, and orders all things for the good of its creatures. With respect to your two children, I have proposed the following plan for their benefit:

Let the boy think of some business, to which his inclination leads him, and I will provide him with every necessary during his apprenticeship; and at the expiration of that term (if his behavior is good) advance something to commence with. As for the girl, let her be immediately sent to

my house, where she shall be brought up as one of my daughters, and everything in my power done to serve her.

I expect that from time to time you will communicate to me an account of your own circumstances, that I may be happy in alleviating every calamity.

Sincerely yours,

ANNA HARMER.

TO MRS. CLARA WOOD,
No. — West Twenty-second St., N. Y.

Application for Subscription to a Charity.

WEST EIGHTEENTH ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 18th, 18—.

SIR,—I take the liberty of inclosing a prospectus of an institution which is likely to have a most beneficial effect upon the condition of the poor in our neighborhood. (*Here state particulars.*) From your well-known liberality, I trust you will excuse this appeal from a stranger in furtherance of an act of benevolence, and remain,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

HERBERT HUMANE.

TO PHINEAS PLENTY, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-third St., N. Y.

The Answer.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20th, 18—.

SIR,—I shall gladly contribute my mite toward the benevolent design you advocate, and herewith inclose a check for $25, which I would gladly double if it were in my power.

Wishing all success to so well intended a design,

Believe me, yours most faithfully,

PHINEAS PLENTY.

TO HERBERT HUMANE, ESQ.,
No. — West Eighteenth St., N. Y.

A Note, Declining.

Mr. Plenty presents his compliments to Mr. Humane, but regrets that, in consequence of many similar claims upon his generosity, he is unable to contribute to a design, the excellence of which he fully recognizes.

West Twenty-third St., New York, Oct. 20th, 18—.

On Behalf of a Sick Person.

Crosby St., New York, June 8th, 18—.

Honored Sir,—Understanding that you possess some interest in St. Luke's Hospital, I venture to write to solicit your assistance on behalf of my son, (*or daughter, nephew, friend &c., as the case may be,*) who has been for some time afflicted with (*state complaint or accident.*) My own employment does not produce enough to enable me to furnish him (*or her*) with medical attention or the comforts required by a sick person, and the favor of your interest in procuring his admission into the hospital would be esteemed a lasting obligation by,

Honored sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Samuel Poor.

To Thomas Perkins, Esq., No. — Fifth Avenue, New York.

Soliciting a Subscription for the Benefit of a Widow.

Brevoort Place, Jan. 26th, 18—.

Madam,—I venture to solicit your benevolent aid on behalf of an urgent and most deserving case. The widow of Peter Stone, a laborer on the Hudson River Railroad, who was killed by an accident on the line, has been left by his untimely end with a family of six helpless children. The two youngest are at present afflicted with a dangerous fever, and require their mother's sole care, thus preventing

her from obtaining employment, or doing anything for the support of those depending on her.

As Mrs. Stone is a respectable and well-behaved person, and is very much averse to applying for ward assistance, a very moderate sum it being raised to relieve her immediate necessities, and, if possible, to establish her in a small shop as a means of future subsistence.

Trusting you will excuse this intrusion, and that I may have the pleasure of adding your name to the accompanying subscription-list, I am, madam,

Your most obedient servant,

CLARA WOODVILLE.

TO MRS. HELEN HOWARD, Gramercy Place, New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

Mrs. Howard has received Miss Woodville's letter, and is happy in being able to assist with her mite so deserving an object, and is gratified in placing her name on the subscription-list for five dollars, which sum is herewith inclosed. Miss Woodville will oblige by a note of acknowledgment.

GRAMERCY PLACE, NEW YORK, Jan. 29th, 18—.

For a Subscription to a Coal and Soup Society.

MADISON SQUARE, Dec. 5th, 18—.

MADAM,—The severity of the season, and the difficulty of obtaining employment, have been the occasion of much suffering among the poor of our city. A number of influential ladies and gentlemen have undertaken to relieve the necessities of this class, and for that purpose have originated the society, of which I inclose you a prospectus. Should you feel disposed to aid in this charitable design, the honor

of your name to the appended list is most respectfully solicited, by, Madam,

Yours most respectfully,

HONORA SWIFT.

To MRS. REBECCA LOVEALL,
No. — West Nineteenth St., New York.

Soliciting Aid on Behalf of a Destitute Family.

BLEECKER ST., NEW YORK, Dec. 18th, 18—.

MADAM,—Permit me to call your attention to a case of suffering in our neighborhood, which is really deserving of your charitable consideration. A worthy but poor man is now lying at the point of death in the upper story of a tenement house, and, as if to remind us that troubles do not come singly, his wife has just given birth to an infant, for which she is unprovided even with the most ordinary necessities. Added to this, the wretched parents have a family of five children who are absolutely crying for the want of food and fire. Inclosed I send you a subscription-paper, and respectfully ask your alms for these objects of humanity. Believe me, they are worthy of your charity.

Your obedient servant,

MARIA MOORE.

To MRS. JANE GOOD, No. — Broadway, New York.

Answer, Affirmatively.

BROADWAY, Dec. 19th, 18—.

MADAM,—I am happy in being able to assist the worthy objects mentioned in your letter, and cheerfully inclose you the sum of $10, to be applied for their relief. Should this amount not be sufficient, I will gladly embrace the

opportunity of rendering further aid in future contributions. With sentiments of regard,

I am, madam,

Your very humble servant,

JANE GOOD.

To MRS. MARIA MOORE, No. — Bleecker St., New York.

Answer, Negatively.

BROADWAY, Dec. 19th, 18—.

Mrs. Good begs to acknowledge Mrs. Moore's letter, but regrets that the claims upon her purse of late have been so frequent and so heavy, that she has nothing but good wishes to offer.

Soliciting Aid for the Widow of a Soldier.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 18th, 18—.

SIR,—May I venture to solicit the aid of your interest and purse on behalf of a most deserving case? By the death of Corporal Brave, of the 14th Ohio Volunteers, his widow is left entirely destitute, with a family of young children, which prevents her obtaining any employment in her present state of bereavement and sickness. She is absolutely in want of the very necessities of life: you can therefore imagine the cheerless condition of her home in this trying season of the year. Measures have been taken to place two of her children in an Orphan Asylum, and an attempt is being made to raise a sum by subscription, sufficient to establish her in some business. I do not think it necessary to offer any apology for thus troubling you. The interest you have always manifested on behalf of our soldiers is a guarantee that you will esteem it a pleasure to contribute in the present instance, and thus add another to your many offerings in the same cause.

Perhaps you can get some other names to the inc. list of subscribers.

Yours very respectfully,

THOMAS HARTWELL.

TO JAMES LOYAL, ESQ., Burnett House, Cincinnati.

Answer to the Foregoing.

BURNETT HOUSE, Jan. 19th, 18—.

SIR,—I esteem it a pleasure to be permitted to contribute toward the object set forth in your letter. It is a duty we owe to the memory of our brave soldiers, to see that their widows and fatherless children do not want.

I inclose a check for $50, and will consider it a privilege to subscribe more if you do not raise the required sum from other sources.

With sentiments of respect,

I am very truly yours,

JAMES LOYAL.

TO THOMAS HARTWELL, ESQ., No. — Main St., Cincinnati.

PART VI.—LETTERS OF COURTESY, FRIENDSHIP AND AFFECTION.

To a Friend, with a Barrel of Apples.

Hudson, Oct. 15th, 18....

My Dear Bolton: Although we are told that the Goddess of Discord created a terrible quarrel among the heathen divinities by tossing an apple among them, I venture to send you a barrel of the same fruit, without any fear that it will lead to any such dire consequences. On the contrary, I intend it to serve as a hint that I hold you in kindest remembrance. The offering is not a valuable one, it is true, but friendly feeling and earnest good wishes accompany it, and trusting to these to give it zest, I remain

Very truly yours,

Henry Temple.

To Mr. Charles Bolton,

... West 38th St., New York.

Answer to the Foregoing.

WEST THIRTY-EIGHTH ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 18th, 18—.

MY DEAR TEMPLE,—The barrel of apples you were kind enough to send me came to hand in excellent order, and I assure you the present is heartily appreciated, not only on account of the excellence of the fruit, but as a token of friendship and good will. Despite of the difficulties in which Mother Eve involved us by eating the forbidden pippin, I am very fond of apples, and as we can now follow her example without committing any sin, you may depend upon it that your offering will be thoroughly enjoyed by me and mine.

Believe me, my dear sir,

Your obliged friend,

CHARLES BOLTON.

TO MR. HENRY TEMPLE, Hudson, New York.

With a Book.

SPRING GARDEN ST., PHILADELPHIA, May 10th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I hope the accompanying volume, of which I ask your acceptance as a slight token of my regard, will suit your taste. Books are in themselves friends, and are therefore, I think, the most appropriate *souvenirs* of friendship. In fact the current phrase, "I know you *like a book*," although a vulgarism, seems to imply the same intimate relation between reader and author that should exist between friend and friend. Please apprise me of the receipt of the package, and believe me,

Ever yours sincerely,

FRANCIS AIKEN.

TO MISS JULIA TOWERS, Norristown, Pa.

The Reply.

NORRISTOWN, May 13th, 18—.

MY DEAR MR. AIKEN,—Accept my thanks for your handsome present. You could not have selected a book that

would have pleased me better. I think with you that books (of the right kind) should be looked upon as agreeable and useful friends; but nevertheless the friend whom neither time nor distance can estrange, is a treasure of more value than all the volumes that ever were printed. Permit me to regard *you* in that light, and again thanking you for your present, to remain,

Sincerely yours,

JULIA TOWERS.

TO MR. FRANCIS AIKEN,
No. — Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, Pa.

With a Ring.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 25th, 18—.

MY DEAR MISS HENRIQUES,—As a ring was adopted by the ancients as a symbol of eternity, I venture to request your acceptance of the accompanying little circlet, as an emblem of esteem and affection on my part, which I am sure will be perpetual. Please receive it in the same spirit in which it is tendered. Place it on your finger, and let me hope that as often as you look at it you will be pleasantly reminded of one who has experienced much happiness in your society, and who is now, as heretofore,

Your old and sincere friend,

HENRY MEADOWS.

TO MISS RUTH HENRIQUES, No. — West Forty-second St., N. Y.

The Reply.

WEST FORTY-SECOND ST., NEW YORK, Dec. 30th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—You have displayed your usual good taste in the choice of the pretty ring which you have been kind enough to send me as a keepsake. I wear it as I write, and assure you that I prize it highly. The pleasure next in degree to the *presence* of my friend, is the knowledge that

he has not forgotten me; and though I did not need this elegant proof of your remembrance to be convinced of that fact, I am not the less gratified at receiving such unmistakable evidence that "out of sight out of mind" finds no place in your "proverbial philosophy."

Your friend,

RUTH HENRIQUES.

TO HENRY MEADOWS, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.

Another, returning the Present.

WEST FORTY-SECOND ST., NEW YORK, Dec. 30th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I hope you will not be offended at the liberty I have taken in returning your kind present, as I make it a rule never to receive anything in this way from gentlemen. I assure you that, while my sentiments of respect and esteem are as cordial as ever, I cannot allow myself, even on the score of friendship, to infringe on a hitherto inviolate principle; and I therefore trust the rejection of your valuable and kindly-meant gift will not be thought unfeeling or unpolite. True good-will and esteem, indeed, are superior to such external evidences, and I am satisfied your generous mind will not for a moment doubt the sincerity of those feelings I continue to cherish toward you.

I am, dear sir,

Your faithful well-wisher,

RUTH HENRIQUES.

TO HENRY MEADOWS, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.

With a Miniature.

SAN FRANCISCO CAL., Sept. 4th, 18—.

MY GOOD FRIEND,—The portrait to which this note will introduce you is said to be a *speaking* likeness of your humble servant. I wish it were, for then it might express to

you, better than the pen of the original, the sincere regard which goes with it to its destination. No "counterfeit presentment" is necessary, I hope, to remind either of us of the other; yet it may perhaps be agreeable to you to look occasionally on a more accurate duplicate of the face of an old acquaintance than even the most graphic memory can supply. Fancy the pictured lips saying "God bless you," and you will realize the feelings with which I subscribe myself, Your old friend,

CHARLES ATTWELL.

TO MRS. CLARA HARTWELL,
No. — Tremont St., Boston, Mass.

Reply to the Above.

TREMONT ST., BOSTON, Oct. 15th, 18—.

DEAR FRIEND,—Thanks for the capital likeness of your well-remembered face, which has just reached me. The expression is perfect. Hamlet tells Horatio that he can see his father with his "mind's eye;" but though the memory is tenacious of the images of those who are dear to us, a good portrait of a friend seems to bring him more palpably before us than any exercise of the mental vision. I shall keep the picture where I can pay my respects to it daily, and hoping soon to see the substance of which it is the shadow, I remain, my dear friend,

Yours always,

CLARA HARTWELL.

TO MR. CHARLES ATTWELL, San Francisco, Cal.

With a Photographic Album.

CHESTNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1st, 18—.

DEAR MISS MALTON,—To keep one's friends' faces in a book where, as Shakspeare says, "every day we turn the

leaf to read them," is considered so indispensable in these photographic days, that I make no apology for sending you an album in which to enshrine them. The styles of photographic albums are so various, that it is difficult to make a selection, but I hope my choice will please you. Hoping that you will soonfill the leaves with friendly physiognomies —(shall mine be one of them ?)—I remain, with best wishes for your health and happiness, Truly yours,

ALFRED WRIGHT.

TO MISS ALICE MALTON, Germantown, Pa.

Reply to the Above.

GERMANTOWN, Jan. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—Shall I say that the photographic album with which you have presented me is the very thing I was longing for ? I *will* say so, for it is the simple truth. A thousand thanks for the handsome volume, and be assured that I shall take great pleasure in placing the likeness of the donor on one of its leaves.

What a satisfaction it is to have the shadows of friends who are scattered hither and thither in different parts of the world, all grouped together in a book ! Really it is the next thing to having them with one in their own proper persons.

Again thanking you, I remain, with best wishes,

Your sincere friend,

ALICE MALTON.

TO ALFRED WRIGHT, ESQ., Philadelphia, Pa.

Another Answer, from the Father of the Young Lady.

GERMANTOWN, Jan. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR MR. WRIGHT,—Alice is delighted with her album, and has embellished the first page with your photograph. Doubting her ability to give adequate expression

in words, to the sense of the obligation, she has charged me to use all my eloquence, in tendering to you her thanks. When a woman doubts her powers of language, you will readily understand that her sense of the obligation is quite overwhelming. Yours very sincerely,

HERBERT MALTON.

TO MR. ALFRED WRIGHT,
No. — Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Friendly Congratulation on the New Year.

OAK HILL, Jan. 1st, 18—.

DEAR MRS. DONNELLAN,—Though there is no day in the year in which one does not wish all happiness to one's friends, this is the day in which the heart goes forth in particular vows and wishes for the welfare of those we love. It is the birth of a new year, whose entrance we would salute, and hope auspicious. Nor is this particular mark of time of little use; it teaches us to number our days, which a wise man thought an incitement to the well spending of them. and indeed, did we consider how much the pleasure and profit of our lives depend upon the economy of our time, we should not waste it, as we do, in idle regret or reflection on the past, or in a vain, unuseful regard for the future. In our youth, we defer being prudent till we are old, and look forward to a promise of wisdom as the portion of latter years: when we are old, we seek not to improve, and we scarcely employ ourselves; we look backward to our youth, as to the day of our diligence, and take a pride in our laziness, saying, we rest, as after the accomplishment of our undertakings. We ought to ask for our daily merit, as for our daily bread. The mind, no more than the body, can be sustained by the food taken yesterday, or promised for to-morrow. Every day ought to be considered as a period apart; some virtue should be exercised, some knowledge improved, some pleasure comprehended, in it. Many

look upon the present day as only the day before to-morrow, and wear it out with a weary impatience of its length. I pity those people who are ever in pursuit, but never in possession. I would wish myself as little anxious as possible about the future ; for the event of things generally mocks our foresight, eludes our care, and shows us how vain is the labor of anxiety.

May the sun every day this year, when it rises, find you well with yourself ; and, at its setting, leave you happy with your friends ! I am sorry you have been low-spirited, but I can never like you the less for it. Mutual friendships are built on mutual wants ; were you completely happy, you would not need me ; imperfection wants and seeks assistance. I am, dear madam, etc.,

ELIZABETH ROBINSON,

TO MRS. SARAH DONNELLAN,
"The Priory," Hackensack, N. J.

A Young Lady congratulating an Aunt on her Birthday.

MADISON SQUARE, NEW YORK, Jan. 10th, 18—.

MY DEAR AUNT,—To-morrow will be the fiftieth anniversary of your natal-day, and I should do injustice to my feelings were I to permit the occasion to pass without expressing my sincere congratulations, and wishing you many happy returns of the joyous day. Aside from the near tie of relationship which exists between us, I shall ever cherish, with feelings of gratitude and affection, the remembrance of the very many favors and kindnesses I have receeived at your hands. Consequently, it is only natural that I should feel a grateful interest in each return of this happy anniversary. Fortunate, indeed, shall I esteem myself if, at your age, I can review my past life with equal satisfaction ; for after all, there is no happiness so complete as that afforded by looking back upon a well-spent life. Birthdays are the milestones which mark the progress of

the traveler along the difficult high-road of life, and happy is the individual who can pass each one without a sigh of regret, or a feeling of mistrust in the future. With my best wishes for your future happiness, I remain,

Your affectionate niece,

KATE MASON.

TO MRS. CHARLOTTE TEMPLE, Tarrytown, N. Y.

To a Friend, on the Anniversary of his Birthday.

WEST THIRTY-FOURTH ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 16th, 18—.

MY DEAR HARRY,—Birthdays may be called the milestones in life's journey, and as you reach another of these anniversary land-marks to-day, permit me to congratulate you on having traveled thus far in safety, and to wish you, with all my heart, many similar opportunities of receiving the good wishes of your friends. That your future years may glide happily away, without care or sorrow, is the sincere prayer of, Yours most sincerely,

ARCHIBALD GLENN.

TO MR. HENRY WARWICK, Yonkers, New York.

Reply to the Above.

YONKERS, Oct. 18th, 18—.

DEAR ARCHY,—Congratulations that come from the heart, as I am sure yours do, are always welcome. I scarcely know, however, whether we ought to be complimented on growing older, unless we grow wiser and better as well. Nevertheless the custom of receiving the felicitations of one's friends and acquaintances, on having made another step toward the goal, is decidedly an agreeable one, and I thank you most cordially for your kind note.

Your obliged friend,

HENRY WARWICK.

TO MR. ARCHIBALD GLENN,
No. — West Thirty-fourth St., New York.

To a Friend, on a Sudden Accession of Fortune.

WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, June 1st, 18—.

MY DEAR HARPER,—Sometimes Fortune bestows her favors on the undeserving; but nobody will venture to say that she has made such a mistake in your case. I congratulate you on the possession of your newly acquired wealth. It could not be in better hands. Long may you live to enjoy it and do good with it. The esteem in which I have always held you could neither be increased nor diminished by any change in your pecuniary circumstances, but I am glad to have such a pleasant opportunity of subscribing myself, as heretofore,

Your affectionate friend,

WILLIAM WILLARD.

TO MR. JOSEPH HARPER,
No. — West Twenty-third St., New York.

Reply to the Above.

WEST TWENTY-THIRD ST., NEW YORK, June 5th, 18—.

DEAR WILL,—Your friendly letter has just reached me, and I hasten to thank you for the sentiments it expresses. A sudden accession of fortune is certainly not an unpleasant surprise, but after all I would much rather have warm-hearted friends than riches. Affection and sympathy are better than gold, and they are blessings which gold cannot purchase. I hope that I shall never use unworthily the means which Providence has placed at my disposal. With kindest regards,

I remain, dear Will,

Yours always,

JOSEPH HARPER.

TO WILLIAM WILLARD, ESQ.,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

To a Friend, on being Married.

NEW YORK, Oct. 10th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRANK,—I believe there are certain stereotyped phrases in which it is customary to congratulate newly married folks; but utterly discarding all rules and regulations in such cases made and provided, I wish you joy in the familiar words which our friendship warrants and my feelings suggest. If your married life is half as happy as I desire it to be, you will have good cause to be satisfied with your lot. Present my kind regards and compliments to your bride. Wishing you many happy returns of the anniversary of the wedding-day, I remain,

Your attached friend,

FREDERICK FIELDING.

TO FRANCIS MOORE, ESQ., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Reply to the Foregoing.

BROADWAY, CINCINNATI, Oct. 15th, 18—.

DEAR FRED,—Lest you should think my happiness—which I can assure you is complete—has made me forgetful of a valued friend, I take the earliest possible opportunity of thanking you for the good wishes you tender to myself and my dear Lucy. I think they will be realized as far as mutual affection can realize them. To say the truth, I am so delighted with my condition as a Benedict that I feel inclined to say to every bachelor and widower, "Go and do likewise." Yours truly,

FRANK MOORE.

TO FREDERICK FIELDING, ESQ.,
No. — Wall St., New York.

On the Birth of an Heir.

WALL ST., NEW YORK, July 20th, 18—.

DEAR FRANK,—I learn with much pleasure that your wish has been fulfilled in the birth of a boy. Present my

compliments to the little stranger, who I hope will one day be made aware that his father's old friend was among the first to bid him welcome on his arrival in this world of trouble, which I hope, however, will prove a pleasant world to him. Give my kind regards to Mrs. Moore, who I am glad to hear is doing well. With best wishes for the health of *both* your treasures, I remain,

Cordially yours,

FREDERICK FIELDING.

TO MR. FRANCIS MOORE, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Friend's Reply.

BROADWAY, CINCINNATI, July, 25th, 18—.

DEAR FRED,—Thank you for your congratulations on the birth of our boy: In matters of this kind, hopeful husbands are often doomed to disappointment. I have noticed frequently that anxiety for a *son* generally results in a *daughter*. We are lucky. Need I say that the boy is a *fine* boy? Did you ever know a baby of either sex that was not "fine?" Mother and child—heaven bless them both!—are doing well, and the father is delighted to be able to make such a good report of them. The *latter*, proud of his new acquisition, remains now, as ever,

Yours truly,

FRANK MOORE.

TO FREDERICK FIELDING, ESQ.,
No. — Wall St., New York.

Inquiry concerning the Health of a Friend.

STUYVESANT PLACE, NEW YORK, Oct. 9th, 18—.

DEAR CLARA,—I cannot tell you how sad I felt when I was informed of your illness; but now rejoice to learn your complaint is not dangerous, and that there is every prospect of your early convalescence.

I would have called upon you, but I have been confined to the house with a sprained ankle ever since I first heard you were sick. I am anxious to know how you progress, and will therefore inquire about you daily. Trusting I shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you out again, I remain, Dear Clara,

Your sincere friend,

DORA DESMOND.

To MISS CLARA CLAYTON,
No. — Waverley Place, New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

WAVERLEY PLACE, NEW YORK, Oct. 15th, 18—.

DEAR DORA,—I cannot express how grateful I feel for your kind inquiries relative to my health; and am happy to announce to you that I am entirely convalescent, and shall soon do myself the pleasure of calling upon you. Hoping you have recovered from the consequences of your sprain, I remain

Your affectionate friend,

CLARA CLAYTON.

To MISS DORA DESMOND,
No. — Stuyvesant Place, New York.

A Young Lady, inquiring the Cause of her Friend's Silence.

FOURTH ST., CINCINNATI, April 19th, 18—.

DEAR BELLE,—I am quite at a loss to conjecture the cause of your silence, as I am unwilling to believe you have entirely forgotten me, or that there is any decline in your affection or regard. It is now more than a month since I received a letter from you, and in the meanwhile I have formed many theories in order to account for your long epistolary silence. Have you been sick, or what has been the matter? Do let me hear from you as soon as you can.

Don't wait to write a long letter, but drop me a few lines, and inform me of your health and present condition, and tell me anything that you think will interest me. Do not fail to comply with this request, and make happy the heart of

Your sincere friend,

ALICE AUSTIN.

TO MISS BELLE MARTIN, New Orleans, La.

From a Lady and her Husband, about to visit a Friend in the Country.

STATE ST., BOSTON, Wednesday, June 15th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—We shall be with you on Friday next, unless something unexpected should happen in the meanwhile; but do not let the girls trouble themselves about meeting us; we shall find our way very well indeed. I need not thank you for kindly offering us house-room for a week; it is, indeed, very thoughtful of you under the circumstances, and all I can do for Mrs. Richardson and your girls, I shall only be too happy to do while I stay. As I shall see you soon, I will say farewell! Emma and Henry unite with me in kind love, and believe me,

Ever your faithful friend,

MARY JANE UNDERHILL.

TO MR. JOHN RICHARDSON. Amenia, N. Y.

Request for a Bridesmaid.

NINTH ST., PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 12th, 18—.

DEAR BERTHA,—I write to ask you whether you and your sister can get ready by the 15th of next month, as you have kindly promised to act as my bridesmaids on the important occasion. Harry is so impatient that I cannot

resist him any longer. I shall call and see you to-morrow; till then,

Believe me, your sister elect,

AMY ALSTON.

To MISS BENNETT, Walnut St., Philadelphia,

Answer to the Above.

WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 12th, 18—

DEAR AMY,—We are both delighted to hear that the happy day is fixed, and shall set to work directly to make ourselves as fine as possible, in our quiet humble way, Plain white, and a few artificial flowers, (which we shall coax father to bring from the store,) will be all that we shall require, and *you* would look pretty in anything. So no more at present from,

Your affectionate sisters,

BERTHA AND JULIA.

To MISS AMY ALSTON, Ninth St., Philadelphia.

Letter from an Absent Wife to her Husband.

LAKE GEORGE, Sept. 13th, 18—.

MY DEAR HUSBAND,—You will be glad to learn that I am enjoying myself here; that is to say, I am taking as much comfort as I can under the circumstances, away from you. But of course there are always plaguy *ifs* intruding their unpleasant shadows between us and perfect happiness; but if you were here, dearest, I was going to say, I should have nothing else to wish. Query! you will say. Might I not then be wishing that I had something to wish for? "Women," so you men insist, "are so capricious." Some poet (Pope is it not?) says "man never is, but always to be blest." I think it isn't so with woman—certainly not with affectionate wives—*indubitably* not so with me.

If you were here, darling, I should say "I *am* blest,"—I'm *blest* if I shouldn't; for as a Bostonian would say of the modern Athens, "you are the *hub* of the universe." There's not another like you extant. I shall be home in a day or two. Won't say when, as I mean to take you by surprise. Much love, and a thousand kisses from your true wife,

KATE TRAVERS.

To HERBERT TRAVERS, ESQ.,
No. — Park Place, New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

No. — PARK PLACE, NEW YORK, Sept. 16th, 18—.

MY DEAR WIFE,—I am delighted with your letter for two reasons: first, because you write as if you were in good spirits; second, because you say (and I believe you, pet) that you would be still happier if I were with you. Byron says "Happiness was born a twin," and he's quite right. At least it is certain that neither you nor I can be perfectly contented *solus*. If it didn't seem selfish, I should say, leave for home as soon as you receive this letter; I will try, however, to await your pleasure in this matter with exemplary patience, merely hinting, dearest, in the quietest way in the world, that if you don't return soon I shall have to go and fetch you.

With oceans of love for *you*, and kind regards to your friends, believe me always your fond husband,

HERBERT TRAVERS.

To MRS. HERBERT TRAVERS, Lake George, New York.

From an absent Husband.

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, Aug. 2d, 18—.

MY DEAREST MAGGIE,—I don't think I shall ever again leave home in search of either health or pleasure without

you. I feel as lonely here, even in the midst of gay society, as Robinson Crusoe on his desotate island.

The story of the absent-minded man who, on arriving at the end of a day's journey from home for the first time, discovered that he had left something behind him, and on reflection remembered that it was his wife, will never be true of me. I have missed you every hour since we parted. How has it been with you, dearest? But I think I know. Let it rejoice your affectionate heart, to know that I shall be with you, probably, next week, and in the meantime shall think of you half the day, and dream of you all the night.

Ever your loving husband,

PHILIP MORTON.

TO MRS. MAGGIE MORTON, No. — Fourth St., New York.

The Wife's Reply.

NEW YORK, Aug. 4th, 18—.

DEAR PHILIP,—Nobody can guess how much delight can be conveyed in a sheet of paper, who has not been blest with just such a letter as I received from you yesterday. So you are coming home, darling, forthwith. How my heart jumps for joy, when I think of it! *Don't* I love you, and *don't* you know it, and *won't* I pay up the long arrear of kisses I owe you when you return! Make haste to the arms of your expectant wife,

MARGARET MORTON.

TO PHILIP MORTON, ESQ., Niagara Falls, New York.

From a Young Lady at School to a Companion.

HILLSIDE ACADEMY, BOSTON, May 15th, 18—.

DEAR LAURA,—Although delighted with the expectation of soon returning to my dear relatives at home, I assure

you I have been so happy and comfortable during my residence here, that a feeling of sadness oppresses me at the prospect of parting from so many kind friends, with but a vague and uncertain prospect of meeting them hereafter. How strange it seems that in a month I shall bid a final adieu to school, teachers, companions, and all the routine of educational duties! I anxiously hope my friends will be gratified with the progress I have made during this last session, for, though I am conscious of having wasted many precious hours, I have on the whole given much more attention than formerly to acquire substantial and valuable knowledge, from reflecting on the fact of my only remaining opportunity being about to pass away forever.

And now about myself! It is so long since we have seen each other that I fancy you to have grown from a mere girl to the full bloom of womanhood, and that you have become accustomed to the attentions and gallantries of the other sex. Well, that is a matter which interests, or is supposed to interest, all young ladies, so I will not tease you very much about the reports which have reached me touching one gentleman in particular; only you must tell me all about him, his age, appearance, stature, name, and anything else you choose. Allow me to inform you that I have made a fancy portrait of him, and I am anxious to compare the real with the ideal. I hope he is all you desire, and that your anticipations of happiness may eventually be more than realized. Believe me ever, dear Laura,

Your affectionate companion,

LUCY DAVENPORT.

TO MISS LAURA HARRIS, Trenton, N. J.

From a Young Lady at School, to a Former Companion.

AUBURNDALE SEMINARY, BOSTON, Dec. 15th, 18—.

DEAR AGNES,—Though it is near breaking-up time, I should feel distracted at leaving this delightful place, were

it not for the expectation of beholding my dear mother, and of again meeting with so many beloved friends, none more so than yourself.

I hope I have made a good progress during this last term, as I know the anxiety of all my friends on the subject, and am too much indebted to them not to wish to make every exertion to gain their good opinion. My health has been excellent; indeed, this place is sufficient to preserve the most delicate in comparative comfort. In fact, had I not another home, I should scarcely wish ever to leave here.

But about yourself. I am so glad to hear that you are engaged; and won't I tease you when I come to town! I long to see the gentleman. Is he tall or short, raven or auburn, fair or dark, &c. &c.? But, without joking on what is really a serious matter in a friend's happiness, I sincerely hope he is a good man, and one worthy the heart and hand of my dearest old school-mate. I well know that you possess all the charms of mind and person that can make any man happy; and that you may never be deceived in your choice, is my most earnest wish.

Believe me to remain, dear Agnes, with every prayer for your happiness,

Your affectionate friend,

LIZZIE METFORD.

To MISS AGNES TRAVLYN, Madison Square, New York.

A Lady to her Friend, informing her of her intended Marriage, and engaging her as Bridesmaid.

"THE CEDARS," NEWARK, Sept. 18th, 18—.

MY DEAR LUCY,—You have witnessed the attentions which have so long been paid to me by Mr. Irving, and are of course aware that he has addressed them to me in the quality of a suitor. I can assure you, it has not been with-

out the closest scrutiny, both on my part and that of my dear parents, into his moral character, temper, tastes, and habits, that I have come to the resolution of becoming his partner for life. His disposition is cheerful; I know him to be a man of the nicest honor: and I rejoice to say, as I have hitherto found, that we seldom fail to coincide in our opinions; which shows, at least, that we are actuated by such a unity of tastes as is calculated to give one every reasonable prospect of enjoying happiness in the married state. The day of our union has, at length, been decided; and the mention of this brings me to the chief purport of my letter, which is that of inviting you to become my bridesmaid. Allow me to promise myself this favor, which I am convinced you will not refuse after our long friendship. The 20th of October has been fixed upon as the auspicious day, upon which, if you have no other more particular engagement, may I rely on seeing you? An early reply, as you are aware, will be requisite; and trusting that it may be in compliance with my earnest wish, I am

Very sincerely your friend,

CLARA KEMBLE.

TO MISS LUCY REVERE, Union Square, New York.

The Answer, affirmatively, and with Congratulations to her Friend on her intended Marriage.

UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK, Sept. 20th, 18—.

MY DEAR CLARA,—No one, I believe, can be more desirous to hear of your welfare and your prosperous settlement in the marriage state, than myself. I have long been sensible of your worth, your goodness of heart, your rectitude of principle, and your warmth of friendship. Enviable among men will be the lot of him who is destined to become your partner for life; and fortunate, indeed, was Mr. Irving in that introduction which first presented you

to his notice. As for Mr. Irving, I need scarcely observe that I approve of your choice, in which you have shown a discrimination that does credit to your taste, and to that good sense which has been the guide of your past life. Your friendly letter, in which you announce your intended marriage, now lies before me, and I must say, that I feel highly favored in your preference of me to become one of your bridesmaids. You could scarcely have preferred any request with which I would more gladly comply. Expect, therefore, to see me without fail on Monday, the 20th of October, a period to which I shall look forward with some impatience, as the day on which the happiness of a dear and valued friend will, I hope, be consummated. Adieu till then, and believe me to be,

My dear Clara,

Yours most sincerely and affectionately,

LUCY REVERE.

TO MISS CLARA KEMBLE, "The Cedars," Newark, N. J.

From a Brother to his Married Sister in a Foreign Country.

NEW YORK, June 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR SISTER,—We have been long impatiently expecting a letter from you. The last we received was far too brief, as we were anxious to know more about the particulars of your voyage, and how you managed on your arrival at the place of destination. The distance which now separates us invests all that concerns you with a peculiar interest, and our anxiety on the subject of your welfare can only be allayed by as full and particular a recital as you can possibly write. Believe me, it is no mere curiosity that elicits this wish on our part to be better informed of all that befalls you; as, since we have but too much reason to conclude that our meetings together are perhaps now forever closed, we are the more anxious to hear from you as

often as possible, and I am sure you will not withhold from us this pleasure. As for ourselves at home, little change has taken place since you left the United States: the health of our dear parents remains much the same; as does also of most of our relatives and connections. They all unite with me in wishing you and your husband all possible health and happiness, and I remain,

My dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

ALFRED ALVORD.

TO MRS. JULES MONTARNO, Rio Janeiro, Brazil.

From one Young Man to Another, in Reference to an Attachment.

NEWARK, Jan. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR KENT,—You will laugh at me, and with some reason, when I tell you that all my old skepticism about matrimonial happiness is at an end. I have met with a young lady, who, I believe, would convert even you to a belief that marriage may be a very happy state, and that bachelors are only miserable wrecks after all.

In brief, I am the engaged and accepted suitor of Miss Ford, whose visit to New York you remember. Words cannot suffice to express how great has been the enjoyment I have hitherto derived from her society, and the more I see of her amiable character and high accomplishments, the more certain do I feel that the day which first made known to me her consent to share my fortunes, will prove one of the happiest in my whole existence.

You may think this a very wild effusion, and one strangely at variance with my former avowed callousness on the score of domestic life; but, believe me, you will soon be a convert, when you see my dear Louisa.

Wishing that you may prove as fortunate in the selection of a partner as I have at present reason to believe I myself am, Believe me,

My dear Jim, ever yours,

GEORGE NEVERS.

TO JAMES KENT, ESQ., Front St., New York.

Reply to the Above.

FRONT ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 5th, 18—.

DEAR OLD FELLOW,—And so you really are to be a Benedict! Well, I have no objections, provided you feel convinced that it is a measure likely to tend to your happiness. For myself, I am still a bachelor, although I do not know what such temptation as you appear to have undergone might not do toward upsetting my present resolutions. You know I have no antipathy to matrimony, but, unlike yourself, I have not independent means sufficient to render me fearless of consequences, and should not be disposed to involve any woman whom I could like sufficiently to make my wife, in a doubtful state of circumstances, if not in a discomfort which must be painful to a man of proper feeling and honor. At the same time, believe me, I cordially sympathize with your delight at the prospect of an agreeable union, and wish sincerely that every happiness may be the result.

Ever truly yours,

JAMES KENT.

TO GEORGE NEVERS, ESQ., Newark, N. J.

PART VII.—LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE AND SYMPATHY.

On the Death of a Husband.

Green St., Phila., June 22, 18...

Dear Friend: Words, I know, can be no balm for a sorrow like yours. The loss you have sustained is too heavy to be lightened by ordinary expressions of condolence, yet I cannot but hope that the heartfelt sympathy of a sincere friend will not be deemed an intrusion on your grief. It has been well said that "we weep for the loved and lost, because we know that our tears are in vain." I would speak comfort to you, but know not how. The only balsam for such afflictions as yours is that poured into the wounded heart by the Great Physician. Commending you to Him who is the stay and support of the bereaved and desolate, I remain in tenderest friendship

Most sincerely yours,

Samuel Phelps.

To Mrs. Sarah Walters.

Bristol, Pa.

Reply to the Foregoing.

BRISTOL, June 27th, 18—.

MY DEAR MR. PHELPS,—The loss of my husband has so completely prostrated me that I scarcely feel able to reply to your sympathizing letter. Still it was a great comfort to me. My friends tell me that time will reconcile me to my bereavement. Time, and the feeling that there is a better world than this, where the parted meet to part no more, may indeed abate the sharpness of my present sorrow, but it seems now as if the sense of loneliness that weighs me down would never leave me. God bless you, for your kind words.

Your affectionate friend,
SARAH WALTERS.

TO MR. SAMUEL PHELPS,
No — Green St., Philadelphia, Pa.

On the Death of a Wife.

PITTSBURG, PA., April 15th, 18—.

MY DEAR MR. MAXWELL,—I sympathize with you sincerely in your great affliction. The loss of a loving wife is one of the severest trials to which a man of an affectionate disposition can be subjected. But during our brief sojourn here we must expect mournful visitations. The blessings that make life desirable are of briefer duration than even life itself. It is, however, consoling to reflect that beyond this fleeting scene, from which the estimable and the good too often vanish soonest, there is a world in which farewells are never spoken, and all tears are wiped away. To that happier above let us trust that the partner of your joys and cares has been called away, and that your loss is her gain. Believe this, and be comforted.

Your sincere friend,
PHILIP STONE.

TO MR. JAMES MAXWELL, Wheeling, West Va.

Reply to the Foregoing.

WHEELING, April 19th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Your kind letter found me, as you may well believe, in great sorrow. I appreciate your kind endeavors to console me, but find it difficult to submit with resignation to the heavy loss I have sustained. Only those who have suffered a like deprivation can realize my feelings. No affliction touches a man so deeply as the death of a loving wife. I am too low-spirited to respond as I could wish to your condolences, but am not the less grateful for your sympathy.

Truly but sadly yours,

JAMES MAXWELL.

TO MR. PHILIP STONE, Pittsburg, Pa.

On the Death of a Sister.

ORANGE, N. Y., May 4th, 18—.

MY DEAR AGNES,—The melancholy intelligence of your sister's death has grieved me more than I can express, and I beg to tender you my heartfelt sympathy. Truly we live in a world where solemn shadows are continually falling upon our path—shadows that teach us the insecurity of all temporal blessings, and warn us that here "there is no abiding stay." We have, however, the blessed satisfaction of knowing that death cannot enter that sphere to which the departed are removed. Let hope and faith, my dear friend, mingle with your natural sorrow. Look to that future where the sundered ties of earth are reunited.

Very sincerely yours,

CLARA MORLAND.

TO MISS AGNES GREY,
No. — West Thirty-fourth St., New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

West Thirty-Fourth St., N. Y., May 10th, 18—.

Dear Clara,—Receive the thanks of your sorrowing friend, for the comforting words contained in your letter. Truly it is only in seasons of affliction that the value of earnest friendship is realized as it should be. It affords me a sad satisfaction to knew that my deceased sister was appreciated by all who were acquainted with her, and is mourned as the good and gentle should be mourned, now that she has passed away.

Believe me, my dear friend,
Yours sincerely,
Agnes Grey.

To Miss Clara Morland, Orange, N. Y.

On the Death of a Brother.

Bleecker St., New York, Jan. 15th, 18—.

Dear Mr. Martin,—In the death of your brother, you sustained a misfortune which all who had the pleasure of knowing him can feelingly estimate. I condole with you most sincerely on the sad event, and if the sympathy of friends can be any consolation under the trying circumstances, be assured that all who knew him share in your regret for his loss. There is, however, a higher source of consolation than earthly friendship, and commending you to that, I remain, Yours always,

Lawrence Parker.

To Clarence Martin, Esq.,
No. — Fourteenth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Reply to the Above.

Fourteenth St., Philadelphia, Jan. 20th, 18—.

My Dear Mr. Parker,—Although sad at heart I am not insensible to your kind expressions of condolence. It is a

mournful pleasure to me, now that my brother is numbered with the dead, to know that he was esteemed by those whose friendship I value, and that he is not forgotten in his grave.

I might say much to you of his excellent qualities, but I forbear. Those who knew him best, respected him most, and none of us need desire a better epitaph than this. With kind remembrance to your family, I remain, my dear friend, Yours truly,

CLARENCE MARTIN.

TO MR. LAWRENCE PARKER,
No. — Bleecker St., New York.

On the Death of a Child.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 17th, 18—.

MY DEAR LIZZIE,—I feel that a mother's sorrow for the loss of a beloved child cannot be assuaged by the commonplaces of condolence, yet I must write a few lines to assure you of my heartfelt sympathy in your grief. There is one thing, however, that should soften the sharpness of a mother's agony under such a bereavement. It is the reflection that "little children" are pure and guileless, and that of such is the kingdom of heaven. "It is well with the child." Much sin and woe has it escaped. It is a treasure laid up in a better world, and the gate through which it has passed to peace and joy unspeakable, is left open so that you, in due time, may follow. Let this be your consolation.

Affectionately yours,

MAUD MOWBREY.

TO MRS. LIZZIE NORTON, New Haven, Ct.

Answer to the Foregoing.

NEW HAVEN, CT., Nov. 25th, 18—.

MY DEAR MAUD,—You are right! I ought not to weep for my little darling, knowing that she is happier now,

than she could ever have been here. Yet, though I try to acquiesce humbly in the will of Him who orders all things well, my heart is almost broken. After a while, when I am calm and more resigned, I will write and give you the particulars of my sweet one's death. Excuse this brief letter, for I am really quite broken down in mind and body, and believe me,

Your affectionate friend,

LIZZIE NORTON.

TO MRS. MAUD MOWBREY, Charleston, S. C.

To a Lady on the Death of her Child.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 7th, 18—,

MY DEAR HARRIET,—The painful news of the removal of your dear child has just reached me, and I hasten to express my affectionate sympathy with you under so bitter an affliction.

Alas, how fresh in my memory is the recollection of the liveliness and innocence of the lovely departed! All that was mortal is changed now, and clouded forever; but how great is your comfort in the well-grounded assurance that the Good Shepherd, who "careth for his flock," has taken the gentle lamb into his own fold! Your child has gone to him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," and we know not how soon *our* hour may come. Oh that we may all meet in that brighter and happier world where sorrow, and sin, and suffering, are alike unknown!

That a higher than human power may console and support you under this heavy stroke is the earnest prayer of,

My dear Harriet,

Yours sincerely,

ISABELLA LINTON.

TO MRS. HARRIET HOWARD, Dayton, Ohio.

Reply to the Foregoing.

DAYTON, OHIO, Sept. 16th, 18—.

MY DEAR ISABELLA,—It is indeed true, although yet we can scarcely believe it. A little while ago our darling child was regarded as the strong one of the family, overflowing with happy animal spirits—the fountain of joy in the house. Now her poor earthly garment is laid in the early grave; and her generous, loving, truthful spirit, with its mine of unwrought wealth, can be with us only by the eye of faith. Wonderful is this dispensation of our heavenly Father's chastening hand! Yet can we see many merciful preparations for it, the foremost being the dear child's own inner life; and through the trials of the past five or six weeks there have been mercies innumerable, tempering the wind to the shorn lamb. Our hope and prayer is that, though seen no longer, she may be a ministering angel in our home. "To do good and distribute" was her element when visibly present. It may be that her desire to bless those she so fondly loved may only have received a deeper and more inward power.

Believe me ever most truly yours,

HARRIET HOWARD.

TO MRS. ISABELLA LINTON, Cincinnati, Ohio.

To a Lady on the Death of her Husband.

BOSTON, Sept. 10th, 18—.

MY DEAR MRS. JACKSON,—Although unwilling to obtrude on the sacred privacy of grief until its first pangs have in some measure subsided, I participate so sincerely in your affliction, that I cannot longer keep myself from writing. And yet, so weak and ineffectual is all human consolation, that I scarcely know how to express the deep sense I have of the heavy stroke under which you are prostrated. Yours is indeed a sad bereavement, but I doubt

not, from your strong faith in Him who "doeth all things wisely and well," you will be sustained and comforted by his own consolations, which are "neither few nor small."

The recollection of him who has so lately departed must be so full of painful regret, that I will not dwell on this dark side of the picture, but rather look to its brighter aspect, in the hope that he has gone to a happier sphere, and that what is loss to you is to him "unspeakable gain."

I add no more but my fervent prayer that you may be divinely comforted in your sore trial, and be roused from your grief by claims of duty to those whose welfare demands your care and affection. Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Jackson,

Your sympathizing friend,

MARY GREGORY.

To MRS. MARY JACKSON, Bath, Me.

From a Lady to Another, an Invalid.

MONTAGUE ST., BROOKLYN, May 7th, 18—.

DEAR MISS BOYLE,—I am truly grieved to hear of your continued indisposition, but trust you may speedily enjoy the return of your wonted health and energy. There is much consolation in the fact that your spirits are good, and that the illness does not affect any vital part; considering which, I have every confidence that, with God's blessing, the careful attentions of your friends will soon make your complete recovery a matter of certain and cordial congratulation.

With kindest wishes and sympathy,

I am, dear Miss Boyle,

Yours ever sincerely,

AMELIA RUSSELL.

To MISS CLARA BOYLE, New Haven, Ct.

On Failure in Business.

WEST FORTIETH ST., NEW YORK, May 22d, 18—.

DEAR FRIEND,—I need not say how sorry I was to hear of your business difficulties. Yet I do not see in this turn of fortune any cause for despair. Persevering endeavors, with such help as you have a fair claim to expect, will, I trust, soon put you in a train to retrieve your loss.

Failure is an unpleasant word, but after all it is a bugbear only to the weak-minded. There is no such *thing* as fail, to a resolute and energetic man. I regret your misfortune, but trust it will not impair your self-confidence. Certainly it will not impair the confidence reposed in you by your friends, among whom you may always number,

Yours truly,

HENRY CARTER.

TO MR. WALTER DUNCAN,
No. — Green St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Reply to the Above.

No. — GREEN ST., PHILADELPHIA, May 25th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—A thousand thanks for your sympathy. I am down for the present, and need cheering words. But I don't despair, though I may be what the world calls ruined. Of this be certain, if effort can put me on my legs again, it shall not be wanting. I am now managing my affairs as best I can. The task is a gloomy one, but as soon as the wreck is cleared I shall feel easier. When I have entirely made up my mind what to do I will write you again. In the meantime I remain,

Yours truly,

WALTER DUNCAN.

TO HENRY CARTER, ESQ.,
No. — West Fortieth St., New York.

On a Sudden Reverse of Fortune.

HARTFORD, CT., Oct. 21st, 18—.

DEAR FRIEND,—Hackneyed phrases of condolence never yet comforted a man in the hour of trouble, and I am not going to try their effect in your case. And yet let me say, in heartfelt earnest, that I was deeply pained to hear of your sudden and unexpected reverse of fortune. Misfortune is very hard to bear, when it falls upon one, like a flash of lightning from a clear sky, without any warning. But do not be discouraged. when Senator Benton saw the work of many years consumed in ten minutes, he took the matter coolly, went to work again, and lived long enough to repair the damage. So I hope will you. There is no motto like "try again," for those whom fate has stricken down. Besides, there are better things than wealth even in this world, to say nothing of the next, where we shall neither buy nor sell. Cheer up, and believe me as of old, Your friend,

THOMAS HELPER.

TO MR. CHARLES SWAIN, Springfield, Mass.

Answer to the Above.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Oct. 25th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—The reverse to which you refer has indeed been a crushing one. It is a terrible thing to see one's whole fortune swept away as if by an avalanche. But I have one consolation in my calamity. It has shown me who are my true friends. Your cordial letter has put new life into me. I am grateful to you for your sympathy, and encouraged by your kind advice. The shock of my ill-luck has shaken, but it has not prostrated me, and although the road before me is all up-hill, I shall climb it manfully.

With kind regards to you and yours,

I remain, yours sincerely,

CHARLES SWAIN.

TO MR. THOMAS HELPER, Hartford, Ct.

PART VIII.—LOVE LETTERS.

Declaration of Affection.

Dear Miss: Will you allow me, in a few plain and simple words, respectfully to express the sincere esteem and affection I entertain for you, and to ask whether I may venture to hope that these sentiments are returned? I love you truly and earnestly, and knowing you admire frankness and candor in all things, I cannot think that you will take offense at this letter. Perhaps it is self-flattery to suppose I have any place in your regard. Should this be so, the error will carry with it its own punishment, for my happy dream will be over. I will try to think otherwise, however, and shall await your answer with hope. Trusting soon to hear from you, I remain, dear Miss,

Sincerely yours,
Henry Morland.

To Miss Maud Richardson,
No. --- Green St., Phila.

Favorable Reply.

GREEN ST., PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—In the same spirit of frankness you have used in addressing me, I admit that among the gentlemen of my acquaintance there is none whom I esteem so highly as yourself. I must, however, have time to think your letter over, and to look into my own heart before I give you a more decided answer. In the meantime I shall be happy to receive you as a friend for whom I have a *very* high regard.

Yours truly,

MAUD RICHARDSON.

TO HENRY MORLAND, ESQ.,
No. — Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Adverse Reply.

GREEN ST., PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15th, 18—.

SIR,—I do not, of course, feel offended by your manly and respectful letter, but am compelled to say that I cannot respond to the affection you profess for me. I look upon you, and shall always look upon you as a friend, but not with that tender regard which can alone justify a young lady in receiving the addresses of an admirer.

Your sincere friend,

MAUD RICHARDSON.

TO HENRY MORLAND, ESQ.,
Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.

To a Widow.

WEST TWENTY-THIRD ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 22d, 18—.

MY DEAR MADAM,—I am sure you are too clear sighted not to have observed the profound impression which your amiable qualities, intelligence and personal attractions have made upon my heart, and as you have not repelled

my attentions nor manifested displeasure when I ventured to hint at the deep interest I felt in your welfare and happiness, I cannot help hoping that you will receive an explicit expression of my attachments, kindly and favorably. I wish it were in my power to clothe the feelings I entertain for you in such words as should make my pleadings irresistible; but after all what could I say, more than that you are *very* dear to me, and that the most earnest desire of my soul is to have the privilege of calling you my wife? Do you can you love me? You will not, I am certain, keep me in suspense, for you are too good and kind to trifle for a moment with sincerity like mine. Awaiting your answer,

I remain, with respectful affection,

Ever yours,

FRANCIS TEMPLETON.

TO MRS. CLARA HENDERSON,
No. — West Forty-second St., New York.

Favorable Answer.

WEST FORTY-SECOND ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 24th, 18—.

MY DEAR MR. TEMPLETON,—I despise false delicacy, and therefore shall not pretend that I have been blind to the state of your feelings. Nay, more, I will say that if your attentions had been altogether unwelcome I should have treated them with a degree of coldness which *you say* I have not shown. Widows, you know, are supposed to have more experience and tact in these matters than single ladies, and depend upon it if I had disliked you I should have known how to make you aware of the fact. Under all the circumstances I think you may *hope*. I shall be pleased to see you whenever you feel inclined to call, and meanwhile, I remain, Yours very truly,

CLARA HENDERSON.

TO FRANCIS TEMPLETON, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-third St., New York.

Unfavorable Reply.

WEST FORTY-SECOND ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 24th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—You give me credit for a discernment I do not possess, for I declare to you, I never suspected that there was anything beyond friendship in the sentiments you entertained toward me. I am sorry to find it otherwise, because it is out of my power to answer your question in the affirmative. I esteem you, but there I must pause. My heart is untouched. The probability is that I shall always remain a widow.

Wishing you, with all my heart, a more favorable response from some worthier object, I continue

Your sincere friend,

CLARA HENDERSON.

TO FRANCIS TEMPLETON, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-third St., New York.

A Lover's Good-bye before Starting on a Journey.

PEARL ST., NEW YORK, March 11th, 18—.

MY DEAREST MAUD,—I am off, to-morrow, and yet not *altogether*, for I leave my heart behind in your gentle keeping. You need not place a guard over it, however, for it is as impossible that it should stay away, as for a bit of steel to rush from a magnet. The simile is eminently correct, for you, my dear girl, are a magnet, and my heart is as true to you as steel. I shall make my absence as brief as possible. Not a day, not an hour, not a minute, shall I waste either in going or returning. Oh! this business! But I won't complain, for we must have something for our hive besides honey—something that rhymes with it—and that we may have it, I must bestir myself. You will find me a faithful correspondent. Like the spider, I shall drop a line by

(almost) every post; and mind, you must give me letter for letter I can't give you credit. Your returns must be prompt and punctual.

Passionately yours,

HERBERT HOLTON.

TO MISS MAUD CARTER,
No. — Fifth Avenue, New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

FIFTH AVENUE, March 11th, 18—.

DEAR HERBERT,—What a rattlebrain you are! I cried for half an hour over your letter, though not that it was particularly pathetic, but simply because it told me you were going away. Of course I know that your journey is a matter of necessity, but that does not help my loneliness. I have two injunctions to lay upon you, and I charge you by your love, to obey them. They are comprised in six words —*write often, and come back soon.* I won't pay myself so poor a compliment as to suppose you will forget me for a moment. Impatiently awaiting your return, believe me,

Dear Herbert,

Yours affectionately,

MAUD CARTER.

TO HERBERT HOLTON, ESQ., No. — Pearl St., New York.

Brief, but to the Point.

WALL ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 5th, 18—.

MY DEAR MISS,—I am accustomed to speak plainly, and know little of the niceties of etiquette. Do not think the worse of me for opening my heart to you abruptly, without any preliminary flourishes. There cannot be anything offensive, I hope, in the candid declaration that I love you. If you will give me the opportunity, I will endeavor to

prove my affection by devoting my whole life to the promotion of your happiness. I should regard the pleasure of calling you my wife as the greatest that earth could afford.

Most sincerely yours,

ALBERT SEATON.

TO MISS BELLE CARPENTER,
No. — East Thirty-eighth St., New York.

Favorable Reply.

EAST THIRTY-EIGHTH ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 7th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter, and must say that there is an air of straight-forward sincerity about it that I like. Fine phrases have never been much to my taste, for I have found the language of truth simple and direct. Following your own example, and waiving all evasion, I will say at once that I think you worthy of the affection you solicit, and that, with the consent of my parents, I shall not object to receive your addresses. I shall be at home to-morrow evening and shall be glad to see you.

Yours sincerely,

BELLE CARPENTER.

TO ALBERT SEATON, ESQ.,
No. — Wall St., New York.

Unfavorable Reply.

EAST THIRTY-EIGHTH ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 6th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to the declaration of attachment with which you have honored me, I can only say that while I thoroughly appreciate your many estimable qualities, I can never be more to you than a friend. As friends let us

continue to meet, forgetting that this correspondence has ever taken place.

With best wishes, I remain as usual,

Yours truly,

BELLE CARPENTER.

TO ALBERT SEATON, ESQ.,
No. — Wall St., New York.

From an Absent Lover.

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 10th, 18—.

MY DEAREST KATE,—This sheet of paper, though I should cover it with loving words, could never tell you truly how I long to see you again. Time does not run on with me now at the same pace as with other people; the hours seem days, the days weeks, while I am absent from you, and I have no faith in the accuracy of clocks and almanacs. Ah! if there was truth in clairvoyance, wouldn't I be with you at this moment! I wonder if you are as impatient to see me as I am to fly to you? Sometimes it seems as if I must leave business and everything else to the Fates, and takes the first train to New York. However, the hours *do* move, though they don't appear to, and in a few more weeks we shall meet again. Let me hear from you as frequently as possible in the meantime. Tell me of your health, your amusements and your affection.

Remember that every word you write will be a comfort to me. Unchangeably yours,

WILLIAM ARCHER.

TO MISS KATE MARTIN, No. — Bleecker St., New York.

A Kind Answer.

BLEECKER ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 16th, 18—.

DEAR WILLIAM,—Your affectionate letter was most welcome. I won't tell you where I keep it, but I dare say

you will guess that it is not very far from my heart. I need not inform you, for you know it well, that you have my entire and undivided affection, and that I look forward to your return with the most pleasurable emotions. I am in excellent health, but cannot know real happiness until I share it with you. There, now I think you will not complain that I do not reciprocate your devotion. According to the rules of etiquette I suppose I ought to be more reserved; but truth is truth, and you shall never have aught else From your attached

KATE MARTIN.

TO WILLIAM ARCHER, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.

A Colder Response.

BLEECKER ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 16th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I think your expressions of regard are somewhat too extravagant. I am not fond of rhapsodies, and do not wish you to take it for granted, as I presume you do, that I am *pining* for your presence.

A passion so very ardent as you represent yours to be, is not apt to be lasting, I am afraid. Affection that is to last for a lifetime should be calm and rational. I do not wish to hurt your feelings, but really a less exalted style of language would better suit the taste and temperament of,

Yours truly,

KATE MARTIN.

TO WILLIAM ARCHER, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.

To a Lady, after a short Acquaintance.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10th, 18—.

DEAR MISS GROVER,—It is with no small degree of mistrust as to the reception you will give this epistle, that I now venture to address you; and, as my future happiness

may in a great measure depend on your answer, I entreat you to give the following expression of my sentiments your most favorable consideration, attributing to the warmth of my feelings whatever may appear bold or presumptuous in my language or manner.

Though it is but a short time since we first met, and our intercourse has been comparatively limited, the impression created on my heart by your good sense, amiability of disposition and accomplishments, is a most pleasing, and, unless I greatly deceive myself, I believe, a permanent one. You may have perhaps observed that latterly my attentions were directed to you in a manner sufficiently pointed to show that some more than ordinary feelings prompted them, and—pardon my self-gratulations—I do not think these attentions were altogether disagreeable to you. To me, indeed, the hours I have passed in your society have afforded the most delightful enjoyment, and my ardent desire is to cherish a more intimate acquaintance with one for whom I entertain so high an esteem.

Should I be so happy as to receive your kind permission to wait upon you with the approval of your parents, a note in reply will confer a great favor on,

Dear Miss Grover,

Your sincere friend and admirer,

HENRY BARCLAY.

TO MISS JANE GROVER,
No. — Bleecker St., New York.

Favorable Answer.

SATURDAY, Feb. 13th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of Wednesday has somewhat surprised me, and, although I cannot deny that I feel pleasure in having elicited such honorable sentiments from

you, I am at the same time aware, from our very brief acquaintance, that it is possible a momentary impulse may be mistaken for a permanent impression. On consideration of the circumstances, therefore, I resolved to place your letter in the hands of my parents, who, it seems, have not been unobservant of those attentions to which you allude, and as they have reason to believe, from your character, that the high compliment you have paid me has been done with a delicate sense of honor, they have permitted me to reply at discretion, cautioning me only, not to be too hasty in giving to, or receiving from another, such a promise as may involve the happiness of a whole life. Meantime, therefore, I must beg of you, until we know more of each other, to excuse my giving any direct sanction to your addresses.

Mamma begs to say she will be glad to have the pleasure of your company to meet a few friends at tea on Tuesday evening, if you are not otherwise engaged.

I am, dear sir,
Yours sincerely,

JANE GROVER.

TO HENRY BARCLAY, ESQ.,
No. — West Thirtieth St., New York.

Reply to the Foregoing.

MONDAY, Feb. 15th, 18—.

DEAREST MISS GROVER,—I cannot allow the day to close without making an attempt, however feeble, to express the delight I have experienced in perusing your letter. And such a letter! How frank and candid in its tone! how gentle and confiding in its sentiments! Believe me, words cannot describe the ecstasy of my feelings on reading it, nor tell how the thousand doubts and fears which had agitated me, gave place to feelings of unbounded felicity

on finding my flattering hopes have not been in vain! To-morrow, then, I shall avail myself of your kind permission to wait upon you; and allow me to add, my most fervent wish is that the intimacy thus begun may result in our mutual love and happiness. In anticipation of the blissful hour when I shall hasten to your presence, believe me,

Dearest Miss Grover,

Your devoted admirer,

HENRY BARCLAY.

TO MISS JANE GROVER,
No. — Bleecker St., New York.

To the Same, after longer Acquaintance, proposing Marriage.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 20th, 18—.

DEAREST JANE,—The delightful hours I have passed in your society have left an impression on my mind that is altogether indelible, and cannot be effaced even by time itself. The frequent opportunities I have possessed, of observing the thousand acts of amiability and kindness which mark the daily tenor of your life, have ripened my feelings of affectionate regard into a passion at once ardent and sincere, until I have at length associated my hopes of future happiness with the idea of you as a life-partner in them. Believe me, dearest Jane, this is no puerile fancy, but the matured result of a long and warmly cherished admiration of your many charms of person and mind. It is love—pure, devoted love: and I feel confident your knowledge of my character will lead you to ascribe my motives to their true source.

May I then implore you to consult your own heart, and, should this avowal of my fervent and honorable passion for you be crowned with your acceptance and approval, to

grant me permission to refer the matter to your parents. Anxiously waiting your answer,

I am, dearest Jane,

Your sincere and faithful lover,

HENRY BARCLAY.

TO MISS JANE GROVER,
No. — Bleecker St., New York.

To a Gentleman, after considerable Intimacy, in Answer to a Proposal of Marriage.

THURSDAY, Oct. 21st, 18—.

DEAR HENRY,—I have just perused your too flattering letter, and, believe me, I feel so excited that I scarcely know how or what to reply. You cannot but have observed that the favorable impressions I received on the night of our first meeting, have gradually deepened as our intimacy matured, and it would be false modesty in me now to disclaim a feeling of the sincerest and most affectionate regard for you, after such undoubted proofs of your attachment. Dear Henry, my heart is yours. Need I say more than that your proposals to my parents will find a warm and not uninterested advocate, in one to whom the acceptance of them will be happiness—their rejection a misfortune?

Excuse the brevity of this letter, for I cannot trust myself to say more than that I am,

Yours affectionately,

JANE GROVER.

TO HENRY BARCLAY, ESQ.,
No. — West Thirtieth St., New York.

To the Father of the Lady.

SATURDAY, Oct. 23d, 18—.

RESPECTED SIR,—I have ventured to hope that you will call all your friendly feelings to my assistance in consider-

ing a proposal I am about to lay before you, in which my happiness is much concerned.

For a long time past your daughter Jane has held a strong hold over my affections, and I have reason to believe that I am not indifferent to her. My position is such as to warrant my belief that I could support her in the style of comfort which she so well deserves, and which it has been your constant aim to provide for your children. As regards my character and disposition, I trust they are sufficiently well known to you to give you confidence in the prospect of your child's happiness.

I have not, however, ventured on any express declaration of my feelings without first consulting you on the subject, as I feel persuaded that the straightforward course is always the best, and that a parent's sanction will never be wanting, when the circumstances of the case justify its being accorded.

Anxiously awaiting the result of your consideration on this important and interesting subject.

I remain, sir,

Your most faithful and obedient servant,

HENRY BARCLAY.

TO CHARLES GROVER, ESQ.,
No. — Bleecker St., New York.

Favorable Reply.

No. — BLEECKER ST., NEW YORK. Oct. 25th, 18—.

MY DEAR MR. BARCLAY,—I thank you very much for the manly and honorable way in which you have addressed me in reference to my daughter's hand. I have long since perceived that your attentions to her were of a marked character, and that they appeared to give her much pleasure. I know no reason whatever to oppose your wishes, and, if I may judge from the manner in which she

received the communication from myself, *you* will find a by no means unwilling listener.

Dine with us to-morrow, if you are not engaged, and you will then have an opportunity of pleading your own cause. Meanwhile, believe me, with every confidence in your integrity and good feeling,

Yours most sincerely,

CHARLES GROVER.

TO HENRY BARCLAY, ESQ.,
No. — West Thirtieth St., New York.

Unfavorable, on Account of a Pre-engagement.

NO. — BLEECKER ST., Oct. 25th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—It is always painful to return an unfavorable answer, but such is unfortunately my task on the present occasion.

My daughter has for a long time been engaged to a gentleman whose character and position give her no cause to regret the tie. At the same time she duly appreciates the compliment implied by your preference, and unites with me in the sincere wish that, as an esteemed friend, you may meet with a companion in every way calculated to ensure your happiness.

Believe me, dear sir,
Your sincere friend,

CHARLES GROVER.

TO HENRY BARCLAY, ESQ.,
No. — West Thirtieth St., New York.

An offer of Marriage.

CHESTNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, May 2d, 18—.

MY DEAR MISS,—I have intended many times when we have been together to put the simple question, which this

note is intended to propose; but although it seems the easiest thing in the world to make an offer of marriage, yet when the heart is as deeply interested in the answer as mine is, it is apt to fail one at the critical moment. Can I, dare I hope, that you will permit me to call you mine? Am I mistaken, misled by vanity, in supposing that this proposal, made in the truest spirit of respectful love, will not be displeasing to you? My position and prospects warrant me in saying that I can provide for you a comfortable home, and I may truly add that without you no place can be a home to me. Anxiously awaiting your answer, I remain,

Yours affectionately,

ERNEST IRVING.

TO MISS ALICE MARTINE,
No. — Green St., Philadelphia.

Favorable Reply.

GREEN ST., PHILADELPHIA, May 5th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—Your offer of marriage is certainly unexpected, but it is made in a manner so diffident and respectful as to preclude the possibility of its giving offense. I am not offended; but marriage is a serious matter, and although I confess my own inclinations are in your favor, I must advise with those who have a right to be consulted, before I give you a decided answer. I think I may say, however, in the meantime, that you need not *despair*.

Sincerely yours,

ALICE MARTINE.

TO ERNEST IRVING, ESQ.,
No. — Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Unfavorable Reply.

GREEN ST., PHILADELPHIA, May 5th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—You have addressed me in plain and earnest language, and I feel it my duty to give a candid and posi-

tive answer to your proposal, without delay. I cannot accept your offer. As an acquaintance I have found your society agreeable, but have never thought of you as a lover. It is therefore utterly impossible that I can respond favorably to your letter. Thanking you for the honor you have done me, but at the same time requesting you to consider your offer *finally declined*,

I remain your friend,

ALICE MARTINE.

TO ERNEST IRVING, ESQ.,
No. — Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Love at First Sight.

MADISON SQUARE, NEW YORK, Feb. 24th, 18—.

DEAR MISS,—Although I have been in your society but once, the impression you have made upon me is so deep and powerful, that I cannot forbear writing to you, in defiance of all rules of etiquette. Affection is sometimes of slow growth; but sometimes too it springs up in a moment. In half an hour after I was introduced to you, my heart was no longer my own. I have not the assurance to suppose that I have been fortunate enough to create any interest in yours; but will you allow me to cultivate your acquaintance in the hope of being able to win your regard in the course of time? Petitioning for a few lines in reply,

I remain, dear Miss,

Yours devotedly,

CLARENCE BOARDMAN.

TO MISS LIZZIE BOLTON,
No. — East Thirty-fourth St., New Yurk.

Unfavorable Roply.

EAST THIRTY-FOURTH ST., NEW YORK, Feb. 27th, 18—.

SIR,—Your note has surprised me. Considering that you were, until last evening, an entire stranger to me, and

that the few words which passed between us were on common-place subjects, it might be called impertinent. But I endeavor to view it in a more favorable light, and am willing to attribute your extraordinary and sudden professions of devotion, to ignorance of the usages of society. You will oblige me by not repeating the absurdity, and I think it best that this note should close the correspondence, and our acquaintance. By attending to this request, you will oblige Your obedient servant,

LIZZIE BOLTON.

TO CLARENCE BOARDMAN, ESQ.,
No. — Madison Square, New York.

Favorable Reply.

EAST THIRTY-FOURTH ST., NEW YORK, Feb. 27th, 18—.

DEAR SIR,—I ought, I suppose, to call you severely to account for your declaration of love at first sight, but I cannot in conscience do so; for to tell you the truth, I have thought more about you since our brief interview than I should be willing to admit, if you had not come to confession first. And now a word or two in seriousness: We know but little as yet of each other, and hearts should not be exchanged in the dark. I shall be happy to receive you here as a friend, and as to our future relations to each other, we shall be better able to judge what they ought to be, when we know each other more intimately. I am, dear sir, Yours truly,

LIZZIE BOLTON.

TO CLARENCE BOARDMAN, ESQ.,
No. — Madison Square, New York.

A Jealous Remonstrance.

WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 2d, 18—.

SIR,—I have heard of your flirtations since you have been at New York. In fact I have been told that you were

false enough to deny your engagement to me, in the hope of making yourself more acceptable as a beau to your new lady acquaintances. Under such circumstances I am quite willing to release you from all your promises. You are free, sir! I have no inclination to share your affections with half a dozen others. Nothing less than a whole heart will satisfy me.

Yours etc.,

AUGUSTA WELLS.

TO MR. HENRY HILTON,
No. — Broadway, New York.

Deprecating Reply.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4th, 18—.

MY DEAR GUSSIE,—You have been imposed upon; by whom I know not, but unquestionably by some one who has a grudge against me. I have never since our engagement paid more attention to any lady than ordinary politeness required. My heart has never wandered from you for a moment. Dismiss such groundless suspicions from your mind. Your letter has wounded me deeply. To break off our engagement would be to render me the most miserable of men. I am willing that the strictest inquiry should be made into my conduct, for it will bear the closest scrutiny.

Dearest, let me hear from you again soon, and in the old kind vein. Ever yours,

HARRY HILTON.

TO MISS AUGUSTA WELLS,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Indignant Reply.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4th, 18—.

DEAR MISS,—The charge of instability and lack of honor which your letter brings against me, is a proof that you do

not entertain such an opinion of me as a young lady should entertain of the man she proposes to accept as a husband. You intimate in plain terms, that I am capable of playing a double part—of pretending love to you, while paying my addresses elsewhere. This being your belief, I think, with you, that the sooner our engagement is canceled the better, and agree to your proposition that it shall henceforth be considered void. Wishing you every happiness with some one more congenial to your taste, and in whom you can place more confidence,

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

HARRY HILTON.

TO MISS AUGUSTA WELLS,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

To a Young Lady, to whom One is Engaged.

NEW HAVEN, CT., Oct. 15th, 18—

MY DEAREST FANNY,—If there is one thing which can console me for my unavoidable absence from your side, it is the pleasure of being able to pen a few lines to express, however feebly, my continued and increasing affection for you. It is, indeed, a painful and irksome change from our rambles about the fields, our evening duets, and our stolen conversations, to a dull routine of mercantile accounts and the never-ending confusion of business. Happily, however, my affairs are in a rapid state of settlement, and I shall soon hope once more to bask in the sunshine of my Fanny's sweet countenance, and to feed my imagination with thoughts of the happiness which her placid and sincere disposition will hereafter shed around a home! I need hardly say how eagerly I watch for the mail, and how I cherish every line that bears the evidence of my dear girl's affection, and how gratefully every sentiment that flows from her pen is treasured in my memory.

God bless you, dearest Fanny, and believe me, with most respectul and affectionate remembrance to your parents, and all friends,

Your ever affectionate and devoted

FRANK.

To Miss Frances Harvey,
No. — West Fortieth St., New York.

Another, on her Birthday.

NEW HAVEN, Nov. 1st, 18—.

DEAREST FANNY,—How sad it is that I am hindered from being with you on this dearest of all days of the year—the day that gave my Fanny to the light, and that laid the foundation of the greatest happiness of my life!

Words cannot express the deep gratitude I feel to that Power, which, in granting you life, has at the same time, year after year, ripened those graces of the soul as well as developed the outward perfection of the body. As I see you—the companion of my childish pains and pleasures—expanding into the woman who is to share both with me throughout my future lot, I feel almost surprised as to how I have deserved such happiness, and gratitude beyond expression to the kind parents who have encouraged and approved our affection.

Accept, dearest, the inclosed portrait. I feel that its original is too deeply stamped on your heart to require any effigy to remind you of him. It is, however, the most appropriate present I could offer to the cause of my happiness on this brightest of all days.

God grant that every succeeding year may see you increase in all that is charming in body and mind, and believe me, My dearest Fanny,

Your affectionate *husband*,

FRANCIS COLTON.

To Miss Frances Harvey,
No. — West Fortieth St., New York.

On receiving a Birth-day Congratulation.

NEW YORK, Nov. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR FRANK,—If anything could compensate for your absence from me yesterday, it is the charming, kind letter in which you poured out your thoughts so fervently. I have read, and read, and cried over it, till I begin to believe that there is even a degree of painfulness in feeling oneself beloved.

We had, in all other respects, a most delightful day. My friends here made so much of me, that I am afraid I shall be spoilt by over-indulgence. We were engaged in a pic-nic the whole of the afternoon, and came home heartily tired. This, however, did not prevent a great deal of music and singing in the evening, and it was 11 o'clock before we parted. I have little news to convey to you—indeed, our letters are so frequent, that they almost anticipate events.

My aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Hull, and all here unite in their kindest regards, and, with sincere gratitude for your constant tenderness and affection, believe me,

Your ever loving and faithful

FANNY.

TO FRANCIS COLTON, ESQ., New Haven, Ct.

On receiving a Miniature from a Suitor.

NEW YORK, Nov. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR FRANK,—I never thought that any fresh proof of your attachment was needed; nevertheless, I have this day received another, and that one of the most acceptable I could have desired, viz., the portrait of him whom, of all others, I am most desirous to keep in recollection. In contemplating this specimen of the artist's skill, I feel that it will ever recall you forcibly to my recollection, and in so doing, will be a constant source of delight to my mind, and will afford me some kind of solace during your absence.

I need scarcely add that I accept your gift with unspeakable delight, although, at present, I have nothing better to send you in return than a fresh assurance of my most constant attachment, which, I trust, may prove as welcome to you as your treasured miniature has proved to me, and in this hope I remain,

My dear Frank,
Ever yours affectionately,

FANNY.

TO FRANCIS COLTON, ESQ., NEW Haven, Ct.

Complaining of not receiving a Letter.

NEW YORK, May 2d, 18—.

DEAR FRANK,—No letter again! You are really growing intolerably negligent, and I shall begin to think that you are getting tired of me, and that some new attraction is in the field. Knowing how anxious I am respecting your health and welfare, I am sure you will give me the credit of not writing from idle jealousy, although really I feel grieved and anxious at your unusual neglect.

I have no news just at present—indeed, I am too much out of spirits to write at any great length. Pray hasten to remove all doubt from the mind of one whose thoughts, day and night, are upon you only.

Your affectionate

FANNY.

TO FRANCIS COLTON, ESQ., New Haven, Ct.

A Lady, on sending her Miniature to her Suitor.

BOSTON, July, 11th, 18—.

DEAR HARRY,—Accept my very best thanks for your kind inquiries regarding my health, which I am happy to say is as good as usual. My thoughts often recur to the

happy hours which we have passed together—hours which I have thought have passed like minutes, so full were they of the pleasure which I ever feel in your company. While I feel that my personal pretensions are but humble, I believe that you will be pleased with the inclosed miniature, the view of which, in my absence, may call to your mind a remembrance of me. While I feel that the likeness is rather a flattering one, still, should it but serve to bring me to your remembrance, the skill of the artist will not have been exercised in vain. Pray accept it as a friendly memento, from,

My dear sir,

Ever sincerely yours,

JULIA BENTON.

TO HENRY SPENCER, ESQ., Cincinnati, Ohio.

From a Young Lady, in Answer to a Proposal for a Private Meeting.

LAFAYETTE PLACE, June 5th, 18—.

SIR,—I am altogether surprised at the proposal in your letter of 3d inst. Although our acquaintance has been of but short standing, I believe my conduct has never been such as to give you reason to suppose me capable of an act which, in my opinion, is equally incompatible with truth and female propriety. Known as you are to both my parents, I can see no object in your seeking a clandestine interview, and my feelings both for my own and their honor are such as would forbid my sanctioning any such conduct.

What I know of you, however, is so favorable, that I am willing to believe that your intentions ought not to be harshly interpreted. Do not peril that good reputation by a conduct so unworthy yourself. If your intentions be really honorable, I am sure you will find no obstacles on

the part of my parents; but I must utterly decline any correspondence of a clandestine character.

Yours very truly,

EMMA BIRD.

TO JAMES HARPER, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-second St., New York.

Another, more Favorable.

LAFAYETTE PLACE, Jan. 3d, 18—.

DEAR JAMES,—Although my own conscience tells me that anything like clandestine conduct should be avoided, still I feel that we are most unhappily placed, and that the undue opposition on the part of my aunt, in seeking to force upon me a man whom I dislike, excuses to some extent what I cannot justify. Would that we could both act uprightly, and cherish an honorable attachment (such as I feel yours to be) without restraint! A few months more, however, will see me mistress of my own fortune and liberty, and then there will be no further need of concealment.

I shall be walking near Stewart's at 3 o'clock, when we shall perhaps gain an opportunity of a few minutes' conversation.

Hoping sincerely that fairer prospects may yet arise for both of us, believe me,

Dear James,

Ever affectionately yours,

EMMA BIRD.

TO JAMES HARPER, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-second St., New York.

A Lover's Quarrel.

No. — ST. LUKE'S PLACE, Oct. 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR LUCY,—It is with pain I write to you in aught that can seem like a strain of reproach, but I confess that

your conduct last night both surprised and vexed me. Your marked approbation of the attentions paid to you by Mr. Walters was as obvious as your neglect of myself. Believe me, I am in no way given to idle jealousy—still less am I selfish or unmanly enough to wish to deprive any lady on whom I have so firmly fixed my affections, of any pleasure to be obtained in good society. But my peace of mind would be lost forever, did I believe that I have lost one atom of your affection.

Pray write, and assure me that you still preserve your undivided affection for

Your devoted but grieved

ARTHUR.

TO MISS LUCY HARTMAN,
No. — Grove St., New York.

From a Young Lady to her Lover, whom she suspects of Infidelity.

No. — WALNUT ST., Saturday Morning.

SIR,—My object in writing, rather than speaking of the matter of my present communication, is because it is one which I should have some delicacy in discussing at a personal interview, namely, your behavior on the evening of Mrs. Howard's party; and allow me to say, the sincerity and freedom with which I have at all times laid open my heart to you, ought to have some weight in my claim to a return of the same confidence. Before I again meet with you, therefore, I beg that you will either explain your conduct on the occasion referred to, or confess that you have treated me in a manner altogether unbecoming the relation in which you have hitherto wished to stand toward me—that of an accepted suitor. I quite concur in the opinion that nothing can be more disagreeable and offensive to society than for lovers to appear lovers in a mixed company; but the pains you took to recommend yourself to Miss Hamilton were too obvious to escape even general observa-

tion, and your earnestness of discourse indicated that you were no strangers to each other. I am not suspicious, nor would I wish to be ungenerous, but the facts I have hinted at were so palpable, that I must have been either blind or utterly indifferent to have overlooked them. I desire to know, therefore, what consideration you can have for my character and feelings, or what sort of intimacy you can wish to maintain with one to whom you have plighted vows of eternal fidelity. Having thus written in plain terms, I shall expect an equally distinct and unambiguous answer; waiting which, I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

CATHERINE MORTON.

TO WILLIAM LLOYD, ESQ.,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Explaining away an apparent Slight.

ARCH ST., PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 22d, 18—.

MY DEAREST KATE,—How grieved am I that you should think me capable of wavering in my affection toward you, and inflicting a slight upon one, in whom my whole hopes of happiness are centered! Believe me, my attentions to Miss Hamilton were never intended for anything more than common courtesy. My long acquaintance with her father, and my knowledge of her amiable character—as well as the circumstance of her being a comparative stranger to the Howards,—such were my sole reasons for paying more attention to her than I might otherwise have done.

Pray rest confident in the belief that my affection for you is as unchanging as my regret is great that I should ever have given you cause to doubt it, and believe me,

Dearest Kate,

Yours, ever sincerely and devotedly,

WILLIAM LLOYD.

TO MISS CATHERINE MORTON,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia.

To a Lover, after a Misunderstanding.

WALNUT ST., Oct. 22d, 18—.

DEAR WILLIAM,—Your kind letter, just received, entirely satisfies me, and I now regret that I should have expressed myself in a manner so reproachful. You admit that appearances were against you, and that I had some cause for complaint—believe me, therefore, when I state that it was only the anxiety of my warm affection for you which led me to exaggerate your fault. Let us dismiss the subject now and forever, and with assurance of my unaltered love, I am, dear William,

Your affectionate and faithful,

CATHERINE.

TO WILLIAM LLOYD, ESQ.,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia.

More Serious.

WALNUT ST., Oct. 23d, 18—.

SIR,—The attempt you make to excuse your conduct is neither straightforward nor satisfactory. It is, in fact, only exculpating yourself by admitting a fault as great as the one of which I complain, (*here state particulars.*) Under these circumstances, whatever pain it may cause me, I must avow my determination never, under any consideration, to admit of your addresses, feeling persuaded that the consequences would not be favorable to the happiness of either.

I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant.

CATHERINE MORTON.

TO WILLIAM LLOYD, ESQ.,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia.

A Gentleman desirous of discontinuing his Addresses.

HARTFORD, CT., June 5th, 18—.

DEAR JULIA,—Whatever may be your future lot in life and whatever change may take place in your circumstances

of this be assured, if put to the test, in me you will find a steadfast friend, and one ever ready to protect your interests. I make this avowal from a deep feeling of respect, which long experience of your worth has implanted within me; but in doing so, (and believe me, it is a declaration that causes me inexpressible pain to utter,) I have also to make another avowal, for which I apprehend you are little prepared, and which I fear may give some shock to your feelings. My dear Julia—with pain I utter it—I must resign all hopes of our future union. Ask me not wherefore; my answer would inflict an additional pang in the breasts of both. Whatever letters I may have of yours, I will dispose of as you think fit; and if you prefer it, will inclose them to you, under seal; entreating, however, that you will grant me the indulgence of being allowed to keep only one, as a memorial of the past; and with this request, I bid you a painful but affectionate adieu, and entreat you will believe me,

Ever yours sincerely,

ARTHUR ALVORD.

To MISS JULIA ATTWOOD, Springfield, Mass.

To a Suitor, in Answer to his wish to break off all Correspondence.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., June 7th, 18—.

SIR,—Your letter, which now lies before me, scarcely deserves a reply, but as it is possible you might attribute my silence to resentment, or a worse motive, I address you for the last time.

It would be dissimulation or false pride in me not to acknowledge that the avowal contained in you letter, sent a pang of bitter anguish to my heart; for, unless I had been destitute of all feeling and attachment, how could I otherwise receive such an unexpected declaration from one whom I have regarded as my future husband, and who had become so completely the possessor of my affections as to

be indissolubly associated with every hope and joy of my life. But deem me not so wanting in feelings of self-respect and a proper sense of injury as to wish you to recall your resolution, whether it may have been made in cool deliberation, or in precipitate haste; and, as you appear to have banished me from your heart, it shall be my earnest, though perhaps painful duty, to endeavor to recede from that position in which, under a mistaken confidence, I have hitherto stood toward you. Before saying farewell, allow me to mention that the return of *all* my letters is still wanting to complete our separation; waiting which,

I am, sir, yours, etc.,

JULIA ATTWOOD.

TO ARTHUR ALVORD, ESQ., Hartford, Ct.

To a Lady, complaining of her Coolness.

WAVERLEY PLACE, June 10th, 18—.

DEAR MAUD,—I am altogether puzzled to account for the marked indifference you showed toward me on the last occasion we met. The evident partiality you evinced for the attentions of Mr. Jones, while my efforts were coldly, if not disdainfully slighted, was remarked by others, causing me much pain and uneasiness. Nor were my wounded feelings soothed by the reflection that, in a mixed company, you might choose to show no preference to one gentleman more than to another; as, if such were the case, why bestow *all* your smiles on the one already named, and neglect or refuse to acknowledge the anxieties of others for your comfort and happiness? If I have done or said anything to forfeit your favor—which I need not tell you I highly esteem—or to merit such treatment, I humbly and sincerely beg pardon, and assure you it was wholly unintentional. At no time have my feelings glowed with warmer affection toward you than now, and you may judge how deeply and poignantly I suffer from the chill cast upon them by your

real or seeming indifference. I am unwilling to believe you meant to give me pain, so I shall wait with impatience for your reply, in the fond hope that it will be as balm to my troubled breast.

Believe me, my dear Maud,

Yours most affectionately and sincerely,

CHARLES WINTER.

To MISS MAUD MAXWELL,
No. — West Twenty-second St., New York.

Reply, confessing a Change of Feeling.

WEST TWENTY-SECOND ST., June 12th, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—I fear my avowal may give you some pain; but it is better to be sincere and open in matters where the happiness of another is concerned.

To speak plainly, then, I feel that my sentiments in regard to yourself are no longer what they were. While my esteem for your character remains unshaken, I still cannot blind myself to the fact that I do not cherish that affection which a wife ought to feel for her husband, and without which the married life is one continual scene of torment and vexation. You will not, I am sure, give me credit for acting from mean fickleness—especially as I do not at present entertain a partiality for any other; but you must pardon me when I express my firm belief that all correspondence between us had better cease, and that such letters as have passed between us should be returned at the first convenient opportunity.

Assuring you that, as a friend, I shall constantly remember you with esteem,

I remain, my dear sir,

Yours very faithfully,

MAUD MAXWELL.

To CHARLES WINTER, ESQ.,
No. — Waverley Place, New York.

From a Suitor, complaining of not receiving a Letter.

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 16th, 18—.

DEAR MARY,—Although temporarily estranged from the delights of your society, I cannot refrain from hoping that you will enable me to realize some slender happiness from a more frequent correspondence on your part. Four days have passed without my receiving a letter from you, and I am in painful anxiety lest illness should be the cause. Pray write quickly, or I shall really feel inclined to quarrel with you as an idle girl; nay, I shall absolutely grow jealous, and fancy that some more favored suitor is undermining the affections of my dear girl.

But I have no fears. I too well know that your innate goodness of heart would prevent your trifling with the feelings of any one; so, hoping you will take this little scolding in good part, and relieve the offense by a very long letter as speedily as your fingers can write it,

Believe me, dear Mary,

Your affectionate

AUGUSTUS.

TO MISS MARY MARLOW, Milwaukee, Wis.

From a Gentleman to a Lady, with a Present.

WEST TWENTY-THIRD ST., Nov. 5th, 18—.

MY DEAR LAURA,—Your acceptance of the trifle herewith inclosed, will confer upon the donor much greater satisfaction than the receiver can possibly derive from it. I present it not for the sake of its value, but merely as a token of my respect and esteem, and I trust, when absent, it may call to remembrance the sentiments of undisguised friendship which I cherish toward the most worthy of her sex. I beg that you will let no delicate punctilio raise any

objection to this humble offer, but accept and wear it, my dear Laura, for the sake of one who is, and ever will be,

Yours devotedly,

FRANCIS STEWART.

TO MISS LAURA LINTON,
No. — West Twentieth St., New York.

A Lady to her Suitor, Acknowledging a Present.

WEST TWENTIETH ST., Tuesday, Nov. 7th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRANK,—Allow me to offer my best thanks for the elegant and acceptable present you are pleased to term "a trifle," which I have just received. Although I never thought that any fresh proof of your attachment was needed, believe me, I shall treasure this memento fondly for your sake, for it is the motive which dictates the gift, and not the mere value, which confers its chief merit in my estimation. At the same time I need scarcely add, that the remembrance of your long-cherished regard is so continually present to my mind as to render unnecessary any extraneous aids, however agreeable to donor or receiver,

Ever, my dear Frank,

Yours very affectionately,

LAURA.

TO FRANCIS STEWART, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-third St., New York.

PART IX.—NOTES OF CEREMONY, AND FAMILIAR INVITATIONS, WITH NOTES OF ACCEPTANCE AND REGRET.

Invitation to a Dinner Party.

Mr. Peyton's compliments (or kind regards) to Mr. Randolph, and requests the pleasure of his company to dinner on Thursday, 14th inst., at seven. A reply will oblige.

St. Mark's Place, Jan. 16, 18...

Reply, accepting the Invitation.*

Mr. Randolph presents his compliments to Mr. Peyton, and accepts with pleasure his invitation for Thursday next.

West 42d St., Jan. 17, 18...

* Instead of sending a note accepting or declining an invitation, it has become very fashionable to inclose a card in an envelope with the word *Accept* or *Decline*, written in the corner. This is now considered all that is necessary. We, however, think it more graceful to indite a note. It is a great breach of etiquette not to do either.

Declining the Invitation.

Mr. Randolph presents his compliments to Mr. Peyton, and much regrets that a previous engagement (*or* continual indisposition, *or* his unavoidable absence from town) will prevent him from joining Mr. Peyton's party on Thursday next,

WEST FORTY-SECOND ST., Jan. 17th, 18—.

Invitation to an Evening Party.

Mrs. Pearson sends her kind compliments to Mrs. Anderson, and will feel much gratified by the company of Miss Anderson, and Miss Sophia, on Tuesday evening, the 21st instant, when Mrs. Pearson expects a few other young friends to join in a quiet dance.

TREMONT PLACE, Dec. 20th, 18—.

Invitation from a Young Lady, to two of her School Companions.

Miss Nellie Nevers presents her kind love to the two Misses Summer, and requests the pleasure of their company at an evening party on Thursday, the 15th instant.

R. S. V. P.*

ROSEDALE TERRACE, Dec. 10th, 18—

Reply, accepting the Invitation.

The Misses Summer accept with pleasure the polite invitation of Miss Nevers, for Thursday evening.

WINTHROP PLACE, Dec. 12th, 18—.

* The initials R. S. V. P. are often put at the end of a note. They stand for the French phrase, *Repondez, s'il vous plait*—answer, if you please.

Inquiry, concerning the Health of an Acquaintance.

Miss Morris presents her kind regards to Mrs. Blaquier, and is anxious to know how Miss Blaquier is progressing.

Miss Morris has been promising herself the pleasure of calling on Mrs. Blaquier for some days past, but continues to be confined to the house by a severe cold.

LOGAN SQUARE, Nov. 15th, 18—.

Reply to the Foregoing.

Mrs. Blaquier's kind regards to Miss Morris, and, in answer to her attentive inquiry, has much gratification in saying that Miss Blaquier is rapidly becoming convalescent. Miss Blaquier requests her best thanks to be conveyed to Miss Morris, and at the same time joins Mrs. Blaquier in expressing regret at the cause which has prevented Miss Morris from favoring them with a visit.

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE, Nov. 17th, 18—.

Invitation from a Familiar Friend.

DEAR MR. HARWOOD,—We shall look for you on Monday evening (the 14th, mind!) at seven o'clock, and if Mrs. Harwood can leave her baby and come with you, I need not say that we shall be doubly glad to see her.

In great haste, which I know you will excuse, and rather admire than otherwise, perhaps,

I am sincerely yours,

GRACE GRANTLY.

YONKERS, June 10th, 18—.

An Invitation of similar Character, at greater Length.

LEXINGTON PLACE, Sept. 1st, 18—.

DEAR FRIEND,—We have just had a note from Mr. and Mrs. Mason, accepting our invitation for a friendly evening

next Wednesday, (the 5th,) and we hope you will be able to come and meet them, as you gave us reason to believe you would. As we know you are too far from the city to return late, we have turned Robert into Charlie's room, so that we can offer you a bed. You will be sorry to hear that our mutual friend, Mrs. Willis, cannot come, in consequence of her husband's illness. The best that can be said of this misfortune is, that Mr. Willis is attended by your brother, and bears his sufferings calmly and patiently—the fair reward of his wife's good nursing capabilities.

Many thanks for your last kind letter. It has done me much good, and sets things in a brighter light. Annie leaves us in less than three weeks—another good reason for your coming on the 5th, if you wish to see her again. She would regret it much if she went to California without a last shake of your hand. By the way, there are others in the family who wish to know if you have had your photograph taken; which ought to be done, you know, before all the beauty is gone. You will come, will you not?

Ever yours, *en amitié*,

CLARA CLAYTON.*

A short Note of similar Character, from a Married Sister to a Brother.

GREENSIDE COTTAGE, Thursday Morning, April 16th, 18—.

DEAREST HARRY,—Can you and *will you* come thus far and take a cup of tea with us to-night? We have looked for you every evening, and have been somewhat disappointed at not seeing you. I am, in haste, with much love,

Your ever affectionate sister.

EMMA.

* The length of this invitation, and the matters alluded to in it, give it more of the character of a letter than a note; but it could not be so appropriately inserted in any other department as in this.

Declination on Account of a recent Bereavement.

My Dear Mrs. Sherwood,—I am greatly obliged for your very kind invitation, received yesterday.

I am visiting at my brother's in Boston, but even were I at home, I should not be able to accept. You know we have had great affliction, and I do not visit anywhere.

Wishing you every enjoyment in your approaching entertainments, believe me,

Yours truly in love,

Marian Morley.

Cambridge, Dec. 19th, 18—.

Declining, for the same Reason.

Franklin Square, Philadelphia, Jan. 16th, 18—.

My Dear Fanny,—I grieve to tell you that a most serious and painful domestic calamity prevents the possibility of my availing myself of your kind invitation, as I had intended. When I tell you that my dear brother is no more, you will at once sympathize with me, and feel the impossibility of anything like mixing in society. Have the kindness to mention to other friends the cause of my absence. Believe me, amidst my own griefs,

Your very sincere friend,

Henrietta Townsend.

To Miss Fanny Harrison,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia.

Declining, on Grounds of Indisposition.

Franklin Square, Philadelphia, Jan. 16th, 18—.

My Dear Fanny,—Will you kindly accept an apology for my not being present at your party last evening? Throughout the whole day I had felt unwell, but had still determined to join you; but, as evening approached, I felt so much worse, that I saw at once that nothing but quiet

was suited to my condition, and that excitement and late hours would only make me worse. I trust you will therefore excuse me, and if you should have an hour to spare, and come and chat quietly with me, it will be a great comfort to,

Yours ever faithfully,

HENRIETTA TOWNSEND.

To MISS FANNY HARRISON,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia.

Declining, for another Reason.

FRANKLIN SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16th, 18—.

DEAR FANNY,—I am really ashamed at having missed your delightful party of last evening, but I trust you will excuse my absence when you learn the cause.

While we were seated at dinner, who should come in but my husband's dearest and best old friend, Captain Brown, of whom you have heard us speak so often, and to whom we were in early life so much indebted. He has but just returned from Europe, and, after three years' absence, I could not find it in my heart to leave the kind old man. He looks remarkably hale and vigorous, though age begins to show itself in his whitening hair and uncertain step, but his spirits are as hearty as ever. He would, I believe, make all the children ill with sweetmeats, if I did not put in a little maternal interference, and he has brought them toys enough to stock a whole shop.

I know, my dear Fanny, that your kindness of heart will readily admit the validity of this excuse, and, in the hope that yourself and your husband will join us in welcoming our old friend back to New York,

I remain,

Ever sincerely yours,

HENRIETTA TOWNSEND.

To MRS. FANNY HARRISON,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia.

An Invitation to a Bachelor-party.

Sept. 11th, 18—.

My Dear Harry,—My festive self, and a half dozen other good fellows, are going to devote a few hours on Tuesday evening to the enjoyment of a few glasses of wine, a game of euchre, and so on. I hope you will make one, as we have not enjoyed the "feast of reason and flow of soul" in each other's company for some time past.

Believe me dear Harry,

Yours ever,

William Alvord.

To Henry Temple, Esq.,
No. — West Forty-second St., New York.

An Invitation to a Water Party.

July 12th, 18—.

Dear Jim,—Jack Halcott, myself, and four others are going up to Stryker's Bay in a six-oared boat next Wednesday. Now, you are a jolly fellow, and a good steersman, so I hope you will give us your company and your services; indeed, we will take no excuse. We shall set out from my rooms at 7½ P. M. without fail. Do not disappoint us.

Yours truly, in haste,

Charles Malvern.

To James Martin, Esq., Clinton Place, New York.

An Invitation to a Pic-nic Party.

New York, June 3d, 18—.

My Dear Sir,—We are endeavoring to get up a small excursion to visit High Bridge on the 10th of this month. Will you do us the favor of making one of our number? Mrs. Shaw and my family desire their compliments, and request me to mention that they have taken upon them-

selves the task of providing the "creature comforts" for that occasion, and trust that their exertions will meet with unanimous approval. Should you have no previous engagement for that day, and feel disposed to join our party, a carriage will be at your door by seven o'clock on Wednesday morning; and believe me to be,

My dear sir,

Yours most sincerely,

STEPHEN SHAW.

P. S.—The favor of an early answer will oblige.

TO CHARLES BRUSH, ESQ.,
No. — West Twenty-second St., New York.

Another, to a Father of a Family.

SPRUCE ST., PHILADELPHIA, June 3d, 18—.

MY DEAR SIR,—May I hope that you will allow your boys and girls to join mine in an excursion to Wissahickon on next Wednesday? We expect to make a rather large party, and have, therefore, made arrangements to dine at Johnson's Saloon.

In haste, believe me,

My dear sir, yours ever sincerely,

JAMES GILBERT.

TO FRANCIS PATER, ESQ.,
No. — Walnut St., Philadelphia.

Another, from one Single Man to Another.

VINE ST., PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 15th, 18—.

DEAR KENT,—I am commissioned by Mrs. Gurney to press you into the service for a pic-nic to the Falls of Schuylkill. You are requested to bring your cornopean, as Howard has volunteered to bring one or two who do a little in the musical way. The party will start from Fair-

mount Landing at eight A. M. Mind, the 22d is the day, do not fail to be there at the proper hour.

Yours ever,

LOUIS MILLS.

TO JOSEPH KENT, ESQ.,
No. — Arch St., Philadelphia.

Requesting the Company of a Lady, to an Assembly.

WALL ST., NEW YORK, Oct. 4th, 18—.

DEAR MISS GORDON,—The first assembly of the Sans Ceremonie Sociable takes place at Delmonico's on Friday, 14th inst., and as the committee have specially requested each member to invite a lady, may I solicit the honor of your company on that occasion? When I mention that Messrs. Hart and Delmar have kindly consented to superintend the arrangements for the convenience and comfort of the ladies, I think you will be satisfied that nothing will be intentionally neglected that can render the evening's entertainment agreeable to our guests. I shall do myself the pleasure of calling on Thursday evening in anticipation of a favorable reply; and assuring you of my respect and esteem,

I am, dear Miss Gordon,
Yours very faithfully,

JAMES ANSON.

TO MISS HELEN GORDON.
No. — Livingston Place, New York.

To a Gentleman, accepting an Invitation to an Assembly.

LIVINGSTON PLACE, Wednesday Morning.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your note of yesterday, and hasten to acknowledge it, having an engagement out on Thursday evening, when you promise to call.

I shall have much pleasure in accompanying you to the Assembly on Friday, 14th, and doubt not the meeting will be as delightful, and the society as agreeable as on former occasions. Indeed, the presence of the gentlemen you named as committee, is a guarantee that everything calculated to insure the comfort, amusement, and harmony of the guests will have due consideration.

Mamma requests me to present her compliments, and to say she will be happy to see you on an early evening next week, when I shall be glad to learn the arrangements respecting the hour of meeting on Friday.

I am, dear sir,

Yours truly,

HELEN GORDON.

TO JAMES ANSON, ESQ,
No. — Wall St., New York.

Declining the Invitation.

Miss Gordon presents respectful compliments to Mr. Anson, and much regrets that a recent domestic affliction, (or, a previous engagement, etc. etc. etc.,) compels her to decline his polite invitation to the Assembly next week. Miss G. is deeply sensible of Mr. Anson's kindness, and begs him to accept of her cordial thanks for the honor intended by his preference.

LIVINGSTON PLACE, Wednesday Afternoon.

Declining to attend the Annual Banquet of a Society.

NEW YORK, March 10th, 18—.

DEAR SIRS,—I owe you an apology for not having made earlier acknowledgment of your kind note of 16th ult., in which, on behalf of the Executive Committee of your Soci-

ety, you invite me to attend the annual banquet of the same, to be given at the Metropolitan Hotel on the evening of —th inst. While I am reluctantly obliged to decline your flattering invitation, I beg to assure you that I am highly sensible of the honor done me, and am very grateful for it. Be pleased to convey to the other members of your committee, and your Society at large, the expression of my best thanks, and accept for yourselves the assurance of sincere regard and esteem, with which I am

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS SHERWOOD.

TO MESSRS. BRADY AND HARPER.

A Lady to her Friend in the City, Inviting her to spend a Month in the Country.

TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK, June 14th, 18—.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I need scarcely tell you that I always feel the greatest pleasure in your society, and am selfish enough, on the present occasion, to covet it for a month, or for a longer period, should it suit your convenience. If, therefore, you are not so wedded to the attractions of a city life, as to be loth to leave them for a short time, I think you would gather some amusement, and also, perhaps, improve your health, by a sojourn in the country. Will you then do us the favor of making our rural retreat your temporary abode, assuring yourself that your presence will enliven our family circle, and be a real source of enjoyment to

Your sincere friend,

LUCY HASTINGS.

TO MRS. LOUISA BERGAN,
No. — West Forty-fifth St., New York.

Answer to the same, Affirmatively.

West Forty-fifth St., New York, June 16th, 18—.

My Dear Lucy,—I have just received your kind letter, inviting me to spend a short time at your pleasant house. Though I live so much in New York, I can assure you that there are few who feel more delighted with the country than myself, and I could be well contented to make it my residence during a certain part of every year, and should certainly do so, did the pursuits of Mr. Bergan allow us to live out of the city. However, my domestic duties are not at present of so pressing a nature as to force me to decline your friendly invitation, and Mr. Bergan, so far from offering any obstacle to my absence from home for a short time, has urged me to send you an affirmative answer, as he thinks that, in addition to the enjoyment which I cannot fail to experience in the society of yourself and family, I shall benefit my health by a change of air and scene. I therefore accept your kind invitation most cheerfully, I may add, gratefully; and am,

My dear Lucy,

Your ever sincere and affectionate friend,

Louisa Bergan.

To Mrs. Lucy Hastings, Tarrytown, New York.

Answer to the same, Negatively.

West Forty-fifth St., New York, June 16th, 18—.

My Dear Lucy,—I have just received your kind letter, inviting me to spend a short time at your delightful residence. Fond as I may be of a life in town, I can assure you I am far more partial to one in the country, and no enjoyment that I can think of would yield me, at present, a greater delight than to fly from the confinement of the New York streets to the free range of the open fields, and to exchange our impure atmosphere for the clear and invig-

orating air of the country. But the pursuits of Mr. Bergan are of a most busy nature, particularly at present, and impose upon me so many duties, that I cannot indulge in a trip from home, even for a day, without inconvenience to my whole family. From what I have said, you will therefore understand that I am very loth to refuse your invitation, but am compelled to do so ; and declining it, as I must, with truest reluctance, allow me to return you my best thanks for your kind offer, and believe me to remain,

My dear Lucy,

Yours most sincerely,

LOUISA BERGAN.

To MRS. LUCY HASTINGS, Tarrytown, New York.

THE END.

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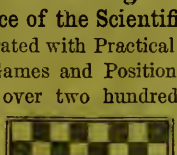

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